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Arafat persuades Kaddoumi to join PA

By DOUGLAS DAVIS and news agencies

LONDON — Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat is said to be preparing to make far-reaching structural changes to the Palestinian leadership, having persuaded two key opponents of the Oslo Accords to move from Tunis to Gaza to join a new collective leadership committee.

The two are Farouk Kaddoumi, who heads the PLO's political department, and Mahmoud Ghannim, who heads the mobilization and organization department.

Both are veteran Arafat loyalists who were consigned to the political wilderness after they publicly opposed the Oslo Accords and refused to move from the PLO headquarters in Tunis.

Arafat reportedly held protracted talks with Kaddoumi and Ghannim in Tunis last week and they are now reported to be preparing to move to Gaza after obtaining permission from Israel.

UN to debate Jerusalem expansion, Page 2

Middle East analysts in London believe the arrival of Kaddoumi and Ghannim will strengthen Arafat's position, but also signal a time of growing vulnerability caused both by his deteriorating health and the challenge from Hamas leader Sheikh Ahmed Yassin.

The arrival of Kaddoumi and Ghannim is also expected to signal a seismic shift in the existing Palestinian hierarchy, reducing the powers of the legislative council, which had threatened a no-confidence motion over allegations of corruption and waste in the PA.

The resurgent, hard-line "outside" PLO leadership is also likely to dilute the influence of the "inside" leaders. A principal casualty is likely to be Faisal Hussein, leader of the "inside" Palestinians.

According to the London-based Palestinian daily *Al-Quds al-Arabi*, Arafat is attempting to form a new leadership body to run the PA and the PLO "in the event of an emergency."

The paper quotes Palestinian sources in Tunis and Gaza as saying the formation of the new body has become Arafat's major preoccupation, superseding the task of forming a new PA cabinet he had promised to create as the price for ending the no-confidence motion.

The paper's sources said Arafat had expressed alarm at the deteriorating situation in the territories and pessimism about the future of a peace process "when he met Kaddoumi and Ghannim."

He reportedly said he expects a "big popular explosion" to be met with a "bloody Israeli response."

Arafat also confided he could no longer cope with his workload and asked them to move to Gaza and "let him share the burden of caring for the 'new phase' — which will include sorting out the question of organizational succession."

He reportedly hinted that he could surrender many of his powers and responsibilities as soon as a second redeployment is completed, saying that in the aftermath of the withdrawal the climate might be more conducive to making certain changes in the Palestinian leadership's modus vivendi.

The paper did not elaborate. Arafat was criticized by both Ghannim and Kaddoumi for his performance to date, but the two men agreed on a package of changes to be taken.



At an official welcoming ceremony in Beijing's Tiananmen Square yesterday, Chinese President Jiang Zemin and his wife, Wang Yeping, greet US President Bill Clinton and his wife, Hillary. (AP)

Clinton chides China over political rights

By TERENCE HUNT

BEIJING (AP) — In a gripping summit debate, beamed to hundreds of millions of homes across this vast country yesterday, US President Bill Clinton and Chinese President Jiang Zemin treated China to a 70-minute news conference, in which the two leaders traded barbs over human rights, freedom, trade, and Tibet.

The leaders gave no ground in their 70-minute news conference, eagerly jumping in after each other to get the last word.

It was spirited but cordial. "You can see that neither one of us is shy about being strong about how we believe," Jiang said.

Bringing attention to a key area of difference — religious freedom — Clinton planned to worship today at Chongwenmen Church, China's largest Protestant church.

Human rights groups say dozens of Protestant and Catholic leaders are imprisoned or held in Chinese labor camps for refusing to bow to government control. Clinton and Jiang agreed to exchange visits of religious leaders to further understanding on spiritual matters.

After church, the president and his family head off on a day of sightseeing at the palaces of the Forbidden City and China's most famous landmark, the Great Wall.

American officials applauded China's willingness to broadcast yesterday's news conference across the land, Tibet in Chinese dotted capital of Peking, the mouth of the Yangtze River.

The exchange also was telecast in America, but for Clinton, it was an unprecedented look at their leader standing side by side with the American president, both men unflinching on areas of controversy and disagreement.

Speaking after the summit, Clinton expressed satisfaction with the summit and the televised appearance.

"For us Chinese, it really is new to see two presidents speaking face-to-face, with reporters asking questions, on live television," said Andrea Yang, an insurance company employee in Beijing. "I hope we can see more of that in the future. This is quite big progress."

Clinton's critics back home weren't so happy with his performance.

"He reduced it to a disagreement. It's more than a disagreement," said Republican Rep. Chris Smith, who chaired a hearing on human rights in China on the eve of Clinton's welcome in Beijing.

Democratic Rep. Nancy Pelosi, a longtime critic of Clinton on China, said he treated the massacre around Tiananmen Square as a "historical episode."

Jiang credited his counterpart for a tougher stance.

"I think President Clinton is a strong defender of the American interest, and I am a strong defender of the Chinese interest," Jiang said. "But despite that, we still can have very friendly exchanges of views and discussion."

Switching languages, he added in English, "And I think that is democracy."

Sandy Berger, Clinton's national security adviser, said the exchange between Clinton and Jiang demonstrated the wisdom of engagement with China. He said Jiang "not only was willing to engage but seemed almost eager to engage in that dialogue."

Both Clinton and Jiang played to their domestic audience as well as one another. Clinton said the United States and China still disagree about the Tiananmen crackdown nine years ago, and that "the use of force and the tragic loss of life was wrong." He said some of the pro-democracy advocates arrested then for non-violent activities are still in prison.

Clinton also said he believed in the power of dialogue. "I believe in the power of dialogue. I believe in the power of dialogue. I believe in the power of dialogue."

Clinton also said he believed in the power of dialogue. "I believe in the power of dialogue. I believe in the power of dialogue. I believe in the power of dialogue."

PM calls for new peace conference

Referendum plan shelved

By HERS KEINON, MICHAEL YUDELMAN, and news agencies

Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu has lost interest in holding a referendum on a West Bank pullout and instead favors holding another international peace conference on the Middle East, sources said yesterday.

A source in the Prime Minister's Office said Netanyahu would like to see more talks held along the lines of the 1991 Madrid conference dealing with regional — not bilateral — issues.

Netanyahu was quoted as saying in an interview with the conservative Spanish newspaper *ABC* yesterday that such a peace conference would be a positive thing.

The interview was published on the eve of the scheduled arrival in Jerusalem today of Spanish Prime Minister Jose Maria Aznar.

The proposal to convene a conference that would deal with regional issues, such as water and the environment, is one Netanyahu has supported recently during visits both to England and the US.

He was quoted in *ABC* as saying that such a meeting could be helpful in resolving multilateral issues, while bilateral talks with the Palestinians would continue to take place in the US.

In Cairo, Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak yesterday dismissed the proposal to convene another international conference as a ruse to harm the Oslo Accords.

Mubarak, who met with Aznar yesterday, said that with this proposal Netanyahu wants to "do away with the Madrid and Oslo processes, as well as the principle of land for peace."

Aznar said in Cairo that he would support convening another international peace conference on condition that it would be a continuation of the Madrid conference, and that it would encourage the Israeli-Palestinian negotiations.

"I am not opposed to another conference, as long as it does not destroy what was achieved up to now, and will work toward furthering the peace process," he said.

In his interview with the Spanish newspaper, Netanyahu said that the peace process "won't move forward as long as we don't have confidence that the Palestinians will fight terror as they promised."

Netanyahu also said that Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat has to decide whether "he prefers signing a peace treaty with Israel or with Hamas terrorists. It is easier to do this with Hamas, but I am trying to compel him to choose the other option."

Regarding the referendum, which was the subject of intense discussion last week, political sources said over the weekend that Netanyahu abandoned the initiative last Thursday, when it became clear he does not have a Knesset majority for it.

The prime minister feared he might lose his coalition, especially due to the opposition of Shas and the Haredi parties, the sources said.

Shas leader MK Aryeh Deri made it clear he was not about to agree to a referendum without an adequate exchange, such as a number of Haredi national radio stations.

The religious parties also decided to object to a referendum when they realized the next issues to be determined by referendum might be religious ones, such as separation of state and religion, conversion, and civil marriage.

Nevertheless, Communications Minister Limor Livnat, who was charged last week with the technical preparations for holding a referendum, has received no instructions to cease her intensive activity, Israel Radio reported yesterday.

Labor Party leader Ehud Barak yesterday again attacked the referendum idea as a trial balloon.

"What we had here was a referendum interruptus" whose results were known in advance, whose intention was merely to stall, and whose price could be bloodshed, Barak said.

Barak noted, however, that if "this strange government, in which anything is possible, does hold this public opinion survey it calls a referendum," Labor would call on its supporters to vote in favor of the redeployment.

"We'll show Netanyahu and the country that the radical right wing and settlers are isolated in their objection to the pullout," he said.

US warns of war in Kosovo

By ELIF KARAN

CRANS MONTANA, Switzerland (Reuters) — US Kosovo envoy Richard Holbrooke warned yesterday that Europe is only a few steps away from a general war but said there was still time to pull back from the brink.

After a marathon of crisis talks in this Swiss mountain resort, Holbrooke took time out to paint a dizzying picture of communities in the southern Serbian province of Kosovo ringed by a concenric circle of rival armies and check points.

The forceful US negotiator, just back from a mission to the region, said war was looming between Serb forces and the ethnic Albanian Kosovo Liberation Army (KLA) in the Kosovo village of Kijevo which he visited this week — "the most dangerous place on the continent of Europe."

"Surrounding Kijevo are heavy KLA checkpoints. Outside the KLA checkpoints are Serb checkpoints. So you have an Albanian village within which are Serb families and Serb police, surrounded by Albanian checkpoints surrounded by Serb checkpoints — all on the main road, like the road between Geneva and Zurich," said Holbrooke.

"These roadblocks, each one of them is a tragedy waiting to happen. President Milosevic's position is that this is a main road and he has a right to open it and use force if necessary."

"But if he did it, it would be a tragic mistake ... there would be tremendous bloodshed. And you would know the name Kijevo."

Holbrooke, best known for his role in ending Bosnia's war, said Western powers were involved in intense diplomatic negotiations with regional players to stop the conflict from spiralling into a wider Balkan war.

"As I left Pristina, MIG fighters of the Yugoslav Air Force were landing and taking off regularly with bombs in their wings, although they haven't used them yet. It reminded me of other wars in other places," said Holbrooke.

"The international community is fully engaged and NATO is preparing itself. Time is short. But it is not too late to turn away from war. The number of casualties and displaced people is still relatively low but it could explode at any moment. We need to work together."

Holbrooke, who has been appointed Washington's new ambassador to the United Nations, also said that "a series of steps were taken to change the status in Kosovo to remove the autonomy and self-governing status, change the school system, send people to jail. This created the conditions for the uprising which has now begun."

NATO has threatened air strikes against Serb military targets in Kosovo unless they stop a bloody crackdown on the ethnic Albanian majority. At least 300 people have been killed in the conflict since February.



US Kosovo envoy Richard Holbrooke (AP)

Superman takes on Holocaust

By MARILYN HENRY

NEW YORK — In a special 60th anniversary edition of the comic book, Superman goes back in time and contends with the Holocaust, but the comic never mentions the word "Jew."

Instead, the Jewish characters are identifiable by their yarmulkes and their names — such as Moishe and Baruch of the Warsaw Ghetto, said a DC Comics spokeswoman.

The story refers to "genocide" and Hitler's "final solution," but avoids what could be an ethnic slur or negative stereotype. The words "Catholic" and "German" were also banned.

"The editors didn't want kids to read this, then go to the playground and say, 'You dirty Kraut,'" spokeswoman Martha Thomases said Friday.

The Anti-Defamation League said the omission was not malicious, but was insulting to the victims.

"You can't ignore their identity," said Kenneth Jacobson of the ADL. "These people were victimized because of their identity."

The comics, which appear to be historically accurate, portray the desperate and deadly situation of the Jews, including forced labor, starvation, murders by the SS and mass graves.

Resistance leader Mordechai Anielewicz also makes an appearance.

Superman — the creation of two Jewish teens from Cleveland, Jerry Siegel and Joe Shuster — debuted in June 1938.

Editors at DC Comics, a division of Time Warner Entertainment, apologized for the omission after the story appeared in the *New York Jewish Week* and the *New York Post*.

Jenette Kahn, DC's president and editor-in-chief, told the *New York Post* the omission "was a lapse. It was a mistake. I'm sorry."

Kahn said she hadn't noticed the omission when reading the story because the victims were obviously Jewish, and were "portrayed not only as victims, but as people of courage and conviction."

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NEWS

in brief

Bar-Ilan denies Netanyahu met PLC members

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu did not meet with two Palestinian Legislative Council members last week and discuss final status solutions for the territories, policy planning director David Bar-Ilan said Friday.

Bar-Ilan said Netanyahu did not meet with PLC members Marwan Barghout and Hussam Khader last Monday, as reported in Friday's *Jerusalem Post*. He said the report is untrue.

The *Post* report, quoting sources close to the meeting, also said Netanyahu discussed the cabinet's decision to expand the municipal jurisdiction of Jerusalem.

"No such meeting took place," Bar-Ilan said. *Steve Rodan*

Lithuania sets first Nazi war-crimes trial

After repeated delays and criticism from abroad, a Lithuanian court has set a September 1 trial date for alleged Nazi war criminal Aleksandras Lileikis, 91. His would be the first Nazi war crimes trial in Lithuania since it broke off from the Soviet Union in 1991. Lileikis, who headed the security police in Vilnius when Lithuania was under Nazi occupation, is charged with sending scores of Jews to their deaths. Lithuania's pre-war Jewish population of about 200,000 was nearly wiped out in the Holocaust. Lileikis later lived for decades in the United States, but was stripped of his US citizenship in 1996. His lawyer insisted Friday that Lileikis is too ill to stand trial. *AP*

Iran pleased with EU dialogue, urges new talks

Iran said yesterday it was satisfied with efforts by the European Union to engage in dialogue with Tehran and hoped that the two sides would resume talks soon, Iran's official news agency IRNA said. "Foreign Ministry spokesman Mahmoud Mohammadi ... expressed satisfaction with the joint efforts by Iran and the European Union ... leading to a higher understanding between the EU and the Islamic Republic," IRNA said. Mohammadi welcomed a new round of negotiations between the two sides in Tehran "in the near future." *Reuters*

French minister to hold talks in Saudi Arabia

French Defense Minister Alain Richard will travel to Saudi Arabia on July 5 for a one-day visit to discuss military cooperation between the two states, France's ambassador to Saudi Arabia said yesterday. Hubert de la Fortelle told reporters Richard was expected to hold talks with Saudi Defense Minister Prince Sultan bin Abdul-Aziz.

The ambassador said the ministers were expected to discuss the possible sale of French tanks to the kingdom as well as broader issues of military cooperation. France, which buys about one quarter of its oil from Saudi Arabia, is the kingdom's third biggest arms supplier after the US and Britain. France is trying to convince Saudi Arabia to buy Leclerc main battle tanks made by state-owned Giat Industries. It is competing with Britain and the US for the major arms contract after its tanks were tested in the Saudi desert at Riyadh's request. *Reuters*

UN votes for Kana compensation

By a vote of 109-2, the UN General Assembly on Friday called on Israel to pay \$2.4 million in damages for the destruction caused by the IDF shelling of the UN compound in Kana, Lebanon, two years ago. About a hundred Lebanese civilians were killed in the shelling, on April 18, 1996. Israel and the US cast the only dissenting votes. Israel said at the time of the shelling that the fire was directed at nearby Hizbullah targets, and was initiated after an IDF patrol came under fire. *AP*

United Kibbutz population down 3.4%

The population of the United Kibbutz Movement kibbutzim dropped by 3.4 percent last year to 64,092, according to an internal study.

Some 2,300 people left UKM kibbutzim in 1997 and 400 died, while there were another 1,800 new members. The kibbutzim have 43,825 adults and 20,267 children and youths.

UKM secretary-general Dubi Heilman said immediate steps must be taken to increase population. "Without the continuous absorption of new members there is no future for community life in general and the existence of kibbutzim in particular," he said. The UKM accounts for about half the country's kibbutz population of some 125,000 people. *Nina Gilbert*

Rare Green Turtle nest found near Netanya

A nest of Green Turtle eggs was found this week on the Netanya coast during part of a national campaign to save the endangered species. The eggs were transferred to an artificial nest in a safe area where wardens from the Nature Protection and National Parks Authority can watch over them until the young turtles hatch and then help them return to the sea.

Since the annual Save the Turtles campaign started at the beginning of the month, 20 nests have been located, including three of the extremely rare Green Turtles, which are almost extinct in Israel. Last year, no Green Turtle nests were found. *Liat Collins*

Injured donkey ignored for five days

A donkey that had been hit by a car and lay at the side of the road to Mishor Adumim with its legs broken for five days was finally put out of its misery on Friday, even though the Let the Animals Live group had received reports about the suffering animal earlier in the week.

Ety Altman, chairman of the group, said she had told callers to immediately report the animal to Ma'aleh Adumim authorities, but apparently the reports were not dealt with. One caller, a Danish tourist, said she called the municipal hot-line about the donkey but was told that she would have to accompany a city official to show him exactly where the donkey was.

On Friday, Dr. Itamar Tsur, who was called by the Association for the Protection of Horses and Donkeys, located the animal and put it to sleep. *Jim*

UN to debate Jerusalem expansion

By MARILYN HENRY, STEVE RODAN, and MOHAMMED NAJIB

Despite US efforts, the Security Council is to meet Tuesday to debate a resolution condemning Israel for its plan to extend the boundaries of Jerusalem and demanding that it be rescinded, council president Antonio Monteiro of Portugal said.

US Secretary of State Madeleine Albright reportedly told Netanyahu in a telephone conversation Thursday night that the US could not guarantee a veto of the resolution.

In east Jerusalem yesterday, Palestinians closed shops and schools in response to a call by Palestinian leaders to mark 31 years since the reunification of the capital in the Six Day War. A large protest was staged on Zahara Street and protesters marched with banners condemning "Israeli annexation."

More than 60 nations are expected to take part in the Security Council debate, accord-

ing to the Israeli Mission to the UN. Given the number of participants, a vote on the resolution may be delayed until Thursday.

The US had sought to stall a council session, but Bahrain, which has the Arab seat on the 15-member council, insisted that the meeting take place quickly.

Jerusalem is "one of the most sensitive issues in the peace process" and any council discussion "would be counterproductive to the success of our discussions with the Palestinians and the Israelis," US State Department spokesman James Rubin said Thursday.

A separate measure - to upgrade the PLO's observer status at the UN - was delayed after pressure from the US. That vote, in the General Assembly, is scheduled for July 7.

In the Security Council, a draft resolution that began circulating last week would condemn the Jerusalem expansion plan and demand that it be rescinded. It also calls on

Israel "to refrain from all actions or measures, including settlement activities, which are illegal" and could interfere with future talks on the status of Jerusalem.

The draft also calls on "the parties" to fulfill their obligations and commitments under their existing agreements.

Meanwhile, the Palestinian Authority warned yesterday that it cannot make peace with Israel unless it agrees to an independent Palestinian state with Jerusalem as its capital.

In a statement, the PA Information Ministry in Ramallah also appealed to the international community to stop what it asserted are Israeli plans regarding the expansion of Jerusalem and Jewish communities in the West Bank, which the Palestinians said would bring the region to war and destruction.

"Peace will not be realized [without] the existence of a Palestinian state with sov-

eighty and Jerusalem as its capital," the statement said.

The statement was part of the continuing PA offensive against Israeli plans regarding Jerusalem. The Palestinian Legislative Council has scheduled a special session for tomorrow to discuss Israeli policy in Jerusalem.

PLC speaker Ahmed Qurei reiterated his opposition to the Israeli government plan to expand the municipal jurisdiction of Jerusalem. He said the "annexation" of Jerusalem "is shameful action and should be reversed as should the rest of the occupation of the territories."

"The annexation of Jerusalem is a shameful act by the Israeli government, and by the force of the occupation," he said. "This force should be removed with the rest of the occupation, if they want the peace. But if they don't want a peace there, as long as there is an occupation, there will be resistance."

Barak to submit bill to draft yeshiva students

By MICHAEL YUDELMAN

Opposition leader Ehud Barak intends to present the Knesset with the Labor Party's bill to induct yeshiva students for its first reading this Wednesday.

"An overwhelming majority of 81% of the public and MKs from all the parties support this bill," Barak said yesterday. "The public wants a just distribution of the burden and military service for all. Who knows better than I, a former chief of staff, that there is no contradiction between being religious and serving in the army."

The public campaign for the induction bill is gathering momentum. Hundreds of activists supporting it took part in roadside protests and vigils outside the homes of ministers and MKs who have not yet announced their support.

On Friday activists held protest vigils outside the home of Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai. Internal Security Minister Avigdor Kahalani, Agriculture Minister Rafael Eitan, and Likud MKs Dan Meridor and David Re'em. Activists also held demonstrations at more than 60 intersections countrywide.

Today a parade of young people

is to march from Bnei Brak to the IDF induction center at Tel Hashomer. Later in the day a large gathering of new immigrants from former Soviet states is planned in the Cinemas, where they will be addressed by Barak, MK Roman Bronfman, faction chairman of Yisrael Ba'Aliya and MK Yehuda Harel, faction chairman of The Third Way.

Brig.-Gen. (res.) Yonatan Bashi, of the Religious Kibbutz Movement, will call on MKs to rise above narrow political considerations and support the induction bill. Bashi, who is chairman of the Public Council for the Induction Bill, has also appealed to President Ezer Weizman and Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai to support it.

In another development, Barak said illegal radio channels should be closed. However, if Arutz 7 is legalized, the Labor movement will ask for its own national radio station as well, he said.

Barak voiced reservations about giving politically identified groups their own radio stations, but stressed, "If the government enables one political stream in society to set up its own radio station, it must permit every group to do the same."

PM asked Ze'evi to join cabinet

By MICHAEL YUDELMAN

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu asked Moshe Ze'evi to join the cabinet last week. Ze'evi revealed in Channel 1's *The Saturday Evening* yesterday.

Ze'evi said he refused Netanyahu's invitation to become a minister, as he did a month ago. "He told me if I agreed, I would be appointed minister the very next day. I said I didn't agree, because I won't be a member of a cabinet which is going to implement pullouts," Ze'evi said.

Ze'evi said he was not objecting to the 13% pullout. "Even 13 percent [3.25 acres] given to a refugee, on which he'll set up a terrorist state in the heart of Eretz Israel, are enough for me to topple the government," he explained.

Ze'evi said his conditions for joining the cabinet are no withdrawal from the territories to "mend previous sins like returning to Hebron, and if necessary even to Gaza. Then we'll have something to discuss."

Meanwhile, MK David Levy told Channel 2's *Meet the Press* yesterday he is the most worthy candidate for prime minister.

"At the risk of sounding a little opportunistic, I am," Levy replied to the question, "Who would be the most worthy prime minister?"

Levy said his Geshet Party "has a very important role" as an independent movement and he would announce whether he is running for prime minister after he makes that decision.

Levy denied reports that he is on his way back to the cabinet. "Since I quit there has been a dangerous escalation. We're marching towards the unknown. Nobody knows where this government is going. What is its goal? The ministers don't know, the people are wondering. Does the prime minister know? I very much doubt it."

Levy attacked the government and Netanyahu for repeatedly stalling the second pullout, saying, "The government is rolling down the slope, both politically and from the security point of view."



Gay Pride Day

Some 3,000 marchers carry banners and flags in the first Gay Pride Parade in Tel Aviv on Friday, to mark worldwide Gay Pride Day. *AP*

Two Rhodes parleys to address peace issues

By MICHAEL YUDELMAN

MKs from both coalition and opposition parties will discuss a potential final-status agreement with a group of Palestinian parliamentarians at a conference in Rhodes beginning Thursday.

At the same time, a separate conference of more than 100 senior media figures, intellectuals and opinion makers from Israel, the Palestinian Authority, Egypt, Jordan and Morocco will be held in Rhodes, to discuss ways to cooperate and the media's role in the peace process.

Both conferences are sponsored by the Greek government and financed by the European Union and the Adenauer Foundation. The conferences are being organized by the International Center for Peace in the Middle East.

European Union ambassador to the peace talks Miguel Moratinos, Greek Foreign Minister Theodoros Pangalos and American representatives to the peace talks are expected to attend the convention.

Participating MKs include Roman Bronfman and Marina Solodkin (Yisrael Ba'Aliya), Maxim Levy and Yehuda Lankai (Geshet), Eranuel Zissmann and Yehuda Harel (Third Way), Haim Ramon, Nissim Zivli and Avi Yehzekel (Labor), Gideon Ezra and Ze'ev Boim (Likud), and David Azoulay, David Tal and Yitzhak Vaknin (Shas).

They will meet over a dozen members of the Palestinian Legislative Council and other Palestinian officials, led by Dr. Nabil Shaath, the PA's minister of finance and international cooperation.

This is the fourth interparliamentary convention the International Center for Peace in the Middle East is holding, following the agreement of understanding formulated at the previous convention in Athens last December.

The "Athens Declaration" calls for both Israel and Palestinians to avoid unilateral steps that violate the spirit and intentions of the signed agreements.

US seeks to deport Gazan

By MARILYN HENRY

NEW YORK - US Immigration officials are seeking to deport a Palestinian originally from the Gaza Strip, whom the FBI believes was plotting to kill Attorney General Janet Reno, according to information made public during a court hearing Friday. The Palestinian, Hany Mahgoub Kiarledeen, who has lived in the US for eight years, has not been charged with any crime.

According to the FBI, Kiarledeen is suspected of being a credible threat to the life of a high-ranking official and made a threat against Reno's 1993 bombing role in the conviction Center. Six people were killed and hundreds of others injured in the bombing.

Kiarledeen, arrested in March after electronic surveillance and Jersey, was charged with the murder of oversteering his student Nature. It was not known where US officials would deport Kiarledeen.

KOSOVO

Continued from Page 1

In Crans Montana, Hotbrooke met Albania's Prime Minister Fatos Nano, who said all efforts should be focused now on stopping the "Serbian war machine." Nano said that the war was threatening to escalate out of control. "We are very close to that moment, if not already at it."

The AP adds: Meanwhile, the Yugoslav army bombarded rebel positions in the central town of Pantina in Kosovo yesterday, in escalated fighting alongside an apparent buildup of government forces in the province.

Explosions and the rattle of heavy machine-gun fire and small arms could be heard on two sides of Pantina from Friday to yesterday afternoon. At least six columns of smoke rose from the edge of the town, just 25 kilometers west of Pristina.

David Ayalon 1914-1998

David Ayalon, who died on Thursday morning in Jerusalem, was a major force in Middle Eastern scholarship in Israel, and one of a dwindling group of scholars of world stature active in this country in the second half of this century.

His importance lay in two distinct, though closely related, fields. The one was that of pure scholarship, the other that of education and the place of Middle Eastern studies in public life in Israel.

Born in Rosh Pina in 1914, Ayalon never forgot his roots. Although he left at an early age for school in Haifa, and later studied and made his home with his wife Miriam in Jerusalem, he was fiercely proud of his birthplace. One of his last projects was a study of the moshava where he was born.

Ayalon devoted himself for almost half a century to the study of the Mamluks, slave-soldiers

who ruled huge areas of the central lands of Islam for centuries, lasting in Egypt until the early nineteenth century.

In his long career he published a number of books and a string of articles on many different aspects of the Mamluks, studies which virtually created a new field of research and provided many of the answers to the fundamental questions which it posed.

Ayalon's work, involving detailed study of the rich sources, many still in manuscript, not only offered a model for emulation to younger scholars, it also made available huge amounts of new information and suggested radical new interpretations of the Mamluk phenomenon, and of the enduring institutions and forms of government which the Mamluks had created.

Ayalon belonged to the second generation of orientalists in this country. He came from a tradition of austere, philologically based

study of medieval sources about the medieval world. But he did not believe that the Medieval Near East should be studied just for its own sake. There was also a severely practical side to Ayalon's interest in this area.

Before the birth of the State of Israel, he had worked in the political department of the Jewish Agency; later he worked for a while in the new Foreign Ministry. In 1947, together with Pesach Shinar, he produced a modern Arabic-Hebrew dictionary - known to generations of Israelis simply as *Ayalon-Shinar*.

Ayalon-Shinar is still unsurpassed for its range, for the richness of its coverage, for its accuracy, and its high standards. It is not just a dictionary of Arabic for users of Hebrew, but a basic working tool for all who use modern Arabic far beyond the limits of the Middle East.

In 1950 Ayalon moved to the Hebrew University, where his

insistence that not only the medieval, but also the modern world should be studied in the context of the contemporary Middle East should be an object of study laid the foundation for this field for the high school, university and research world. He studied the surrounding world, he believed, that Israel's place in the property to find its place finally to Middle East and connect it with its neighborly accommodation with all of Israel's borders. This study is depends in one universities today, in the success of way or another on these courses and his efforts to create structures in institutions.

He was one of the Israel Prize for Humanities in 1972 was awarded recognition of the as much as of his work in the history of the medieval world of the Middle East as of the significance of his contribution to the advancement of understanding between Israel and the Arab world. *J. Wasserstein*

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1550

Report: Nazi loot worth \$140b.

By MARILYN HENRY
and news agencies

NEW YORK — The Nazis looted between \$9 billion and \$14 billion in Jewish assets in the 20 countries they occupied during World War II, Reuters reported, citing a study by the World Jewish Congress to be released this week. The report, prepared by economist Sidney Jay Zabludoff, said the assets would be worth between \$90 billion and \$140 billion at today's prices.

Personal monetary holdings and investments accounted for about 40% to 50% of each country's Jewish assets. Residential real estate accounted for about 25% and business assets about 15%, according to Reuters.

The WJC estimated, in testimony in May before the New York state Senate Insurance Committee, that Jewish losses ranged from \$23 billion to \$32 billion in 1945 dollars, according to AP.

Its report, based on an analysis of pre-war per capita estimates of Jewish wealth, is being released in connection with a State Department conference this week.

Representatives from dozens of nations and non-governmental organizations, including Jewish groups, are to meet in Washington on Tuesday to hammer out an agenda for an international conference on Nazi loot.

The American conference, scheduled for late November, is expected to focus on art, insurance and other plundered assets.

It is the successor to a conference last December in London that was devoted to Nazi gold. At that time, Britain and the US called for the establishment of an international fund to help victims of Nazi persecution, and suggest-

ed that nations donate the remaining gold — only now being returned — that Nazis had looted from the central banks of Europe.

France pledged on Friday to contribute around 20 million francs (\$3.3 million).

Meanwhile, Norway's cabinet on Friday approved a draft law to pay 450 million crowns (\$58 million) to Jewish survivors, their descendants and Jewish organizations.

Oslo last year dramatically affirmed the claims of its Jewish community, rejecting the recommendations of an official government commission that investigated those claims.

In New Jersey, meanwhile, a state Senate panel tomorrow is expected to approve a measure to divest holdings in Swiss banks.

The bill, which has been passed by the state assembly, would require state pension funds to withdraw deposits and investments from Swiss banks and to sell 280,000 shares in Union Bank of Switzerland.

New Jersey's vote is expected only days before state and local finance officials are to meet in New York to consider sanctions against the banks, in an effort to compel the banks to reach a settlement with survivors and Jewish organizations over charges that the banks hoarded war-era Jewish assets.

Last week, survivors' lawyers and Jewish leaders held seven hours of indirect negotiations in Washington with representatives of Union Bank, Credit Suisse and Swiss Bank Corporation, under the auspices of Undersecretary of State Stuart Eizenstat, who shuttled back and forth between the feuding sides.

The three major Swiss commercial banks have offered \$600m. to settle Holocaust-era claims, plus

the amounts located in the forensic audit being conducted under the leadership of former Federal Reserve head Paul Volcker.

That offer was rejected as "humiliating," and Jewish negotiators reportedly asked for \$1.5 billion.

Pact on preserving Auschwitz delayed

By MARILYN HENRY

NEW YORK — An agreement between Poland and an international Jewish coalition over the future of Auschwitz has been delayed anew by a dispute over religious symbols, sources said at week's end.

The government of Poland and the coalition of Jewish institutions and organizations, including Yad Vashem and the US Holocaust Memorial Museum, were scheduled to meet on July 13 to sign a 10-point declaration on Project Oswiecimski. That plan outlines the framework for the preservation and development of Auschwitz.

The Polish-Jewish agreement was initiated in March 1997, but the formal signing was delayed

initially by a dispute over the presence of religious symbols at the site. Although the symbols originally in question were removed, a subsequent dispute has arisen over a cross at the site of a papal mass.

Kalman Sulzberg of the World Jewish Congress has said he will not sign the agreement, which in effect stymies the coalition. It was not clear why the WJC backed away from the pact only weeks from the signing.

The agreement also was attacked Friday in a full-page ad in the US weekly newspaper *The Forward*, in which Rabbi Avi Weiss also denounced the chairman of the US Holocaust Memorial Council, Miles Lerman, and said the international Jewish coalition had no authority to sign the pact.



Bird on a wire

Asterix the vulture poses Friday at an Israel Electric Corporation exhibit at Kfar Hamaccabiah in Ramat Gan. Two of the birds participated in a company research project aimed at making high-tension wires safe to perch on.

(Assaf Shilo/Jerusalem Sun)

HEBREW PRESS REVIEW

By ORLY AHARONI

Tragedy in Lebanon

"If someone mistakenly thought that the deal between Israel, the Lebanese government and Hizbullah (on the return of Ramat Iyya's body) reflects a softening in policy, the bombs in Talousa village forced us to return to the right perspective," writes *Ma'ariv's* Alex Fishman, referring to the killing of two IDF soldiers by a Hizbullah roadside bomb.

"It seems that talk in the Northern Command indicating that the terrorists have difficulty penetrating the security zone were premature," he writes.

In an interview with *Ma'ariv's* Ofir Shelah and Yoav Limor, IDF Chief of General Staff Lt.-Gen. Amnon Lipkin-Shahak claims that the IDF is fighting more effectively in Lebanon but added that although the number of casualties has decreased, the number of events has increased. "We must be careful, because it is obvious that hundreds of attacks against us will not end with good results."

Broken hearts club

The proposal to conduct a national referendum on the issue of a further redeployment continued to dominate the weekend press, which focused on the fierce objections it has raised from the likes of Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai and President Ezer Weizman, who believe it is simply a delaying tactic.

"The defense minister deserves a 'welcome' on his joining the Bibi Broken Hearts Club," writes *Ha'aretz's* Yoel Marcus, explaining that this "club" includes people around the world who feel that they have been deceived by Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu. "It seems that this is the first time since he has become defense minister that Mordechai is beginning to doubt Bibi's integrity, intentions and leadership."

Marcus claims that a man in Mordechai's position and enormous popularity holds full responsibility for the future of the peace process.

Ma'ariv's Ben Caspit reviews Mordechai's efforts of the last few months to organize a safety net for Netanyahu. "As he was sweating, Mordechai discovered the referendum. No wonder that he looked

like someone who swallowed a bucket of rotten fish when he was asked about it in the Knesset corridors."

Ma'ariv's Shalom Yerushalmi states that Netanyahu has managed to deceive many with his ability to persuade, but currently, Weizman believes that neither a referendum or a redeployment will be implemented. He adds that Netanyahu has a problem with Weizman's harsh criticism: He is the most popular president the state has ever had and has enormous influence on the people.

Ha'aretz's Yosef Dor harshly attacks Weizman for using the term "Bibi-yahu" while criticizing the prime minister. "An elected premier in Israel is not an object for grotesque cynicism...from he who often forgets his high status."

'Din Udvaram'

Yedioth's Nahum Barnea and *Ma'ariv's* Sima Kadmon protest against the possibility that Sokolov award winner, lawyer and *Ma'ariv* columnist Moshe Negbi's acclaimed Israel Radio program *Din Udvaram*, which has stopped airing, may be dropped permanently.

The popular program interprets legal events in the news. The two believe that irrelevant considerations are behind the decision to drop the program.

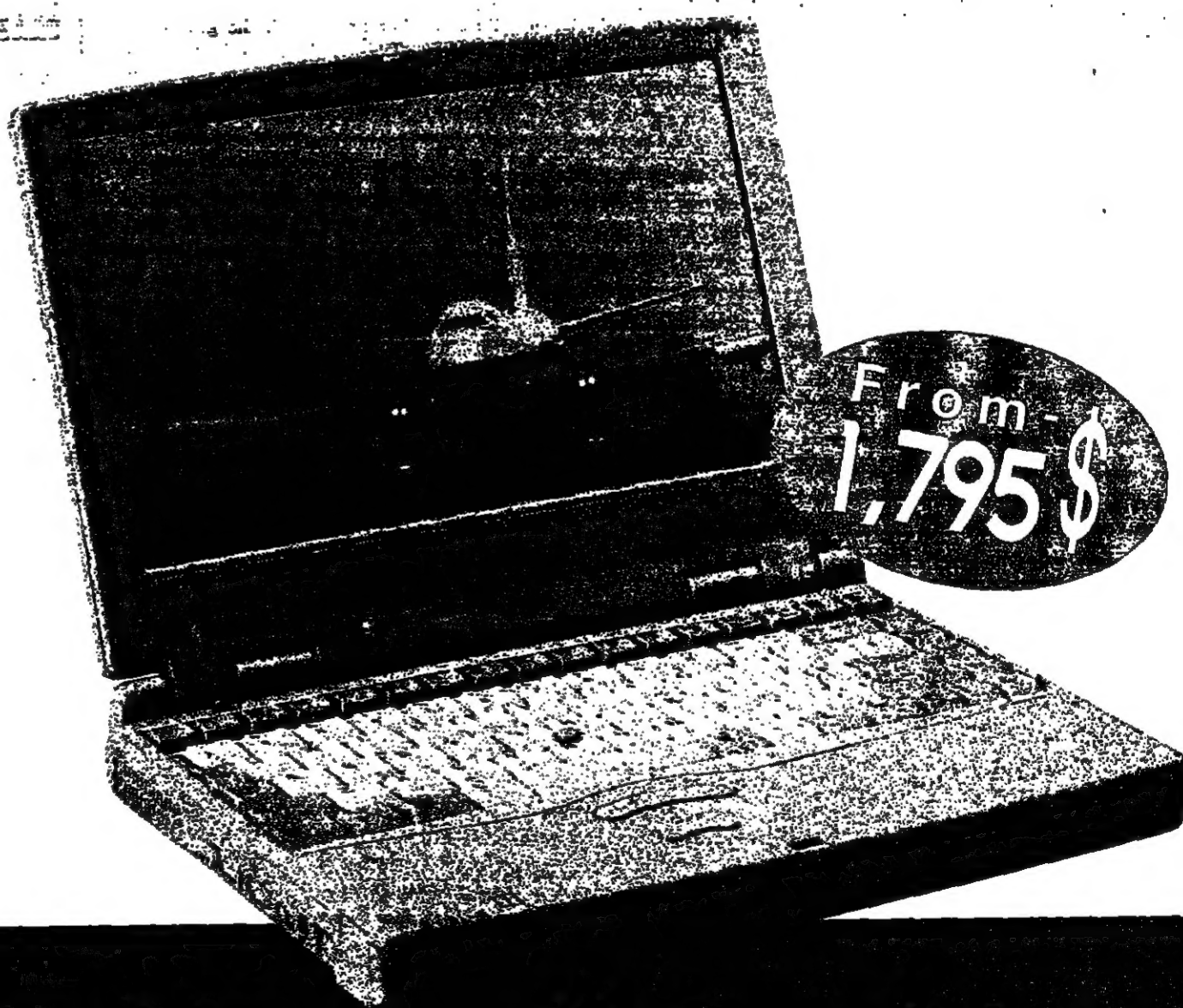
"The justice system is the religion of *Din Udvaram* and Negbi is its master and teacher," writes Barnea, who adds that "you either have to be a bad manager, a big villain or both to destroy an institution like *Din Udvaram*."

MK's deadly sins

Following the report on Justice Minister Tzahi Hanegbi's eating non-kosher food in a restaurant, Uri Orbach in *Yedioth* suggests that the haredi MKs and religious newspapers continue their surveillance of government ministers.

"What is most frightening is the fact that after the surveillance exposes the secular lifestyle of the secular ministers, they will also start following the religious ministers and discover that they go to synagogue...and listen to hassidic music during the day. Where has it all come to?"

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Hizbullah prisoners receive heroes' welcome

By DAVID RUDGE

Some 60 Lebanese prisoners – many of them belonging to Hizbullah – were released from jails in Israel and the security zone on Friday as part of the exchange under which the remains of naval commando 3PO Itamar Ilyia were returned to Israel.

Ilyia, 21, was laid to rest at the cemetery in his home town of Arad on Friday afternoon. That was more than nine months after he was killed in an abortive commando raid in Lebanon, in which 11 of his comrades also died.

Hundreds of friends, relatives, and military colleagues were joined at the funeral by President Ezer Weizman, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai, Chief of Staff Lt-Gen. Amnon Lipkin Shahak, and the head of the Navy and the Naval Command Unit. Ilyia's family requested that there be no press coverage and that the public refrain from condolences visits.

The remains of Ilyia were returned to Israel aboard a French military cargo plane on Thursday night. They were then identified, enabling Israel to return the bodies of 40 Lebanese gunmen to Lebanon on the same plane.

The bodies included that of Hadi Nasrallah, son of Hizbullah leader Sheikh Hassan Nasrallah. He was killed in a clash with IDF troops in south Lebanon shortly after the naval commando disaster.

As part of the exchange, Israel also agreed to release 10 Lebanese



Hizbullah loyalists in Beirut touch the shroud wrapped body of Hadi Nasrallah on Friday, a day after the corpse was returned to Lebanon along with the remains of 39 other Hizbullah fighters. (AP)

held in the country and a further 50 detained at the South Lebanon Army's El-Khiyam jail in the security zone.

Channel Two reported that only nine were actually returned to Lebanon after one of the prisoners who had been jailed in Israel asked to be allowed to remain in the country after his release.

Those freed included Muhsein Mukhdad, reportedly from Hizbullah's top-secret European

division, who was sent to Israel via another country to carry out a mission against Israel itself. The bomb exploded prematurely while he was preparing it in east Jerusalem's Lawrence Hotel in 1996.

Doctors managed to save Mukhdad's life, but he lost both legs, one of his arms and was blinded as a result of the blast. In interviews with reporters, he gave thanks for the way he had been treated in Israel, but said the fight

to "liberate" south Lebanon should continue, although not via attacks against Israel itself.

Mukhdad was taken by ambulance from the hospital wing of Ayalon prison to a crossing point on the northern border near Metulla. The eight other prisoners were brought in a Prison Service van from the Kishon jail near Haifa.

There, representatives of the International Committee of the Red

Cross (ICRC) met the prisoners. After brief identification checks and medical examinations the prisoners were handed over to representatives of the humanitarian aid organization on the Lebanese side.

Simultaneously, around 50 detainees were freed from the El-Khiyam jail and taken in Red Cross vehicles escorted by SLA troops to the Kfar Falus crossing point near Jezzine. Those released from El-Khiyam were primarily those among the prisoners, from Hizbullah and Amal, who had been detained there longest, and others who were ill.

The freed Lebanese prisoners were given a heroes' welcome by huge crowds at the Kfar Falus crossing point near Jezzine and later at a reception in Beirut led by Prime Minister Rafik Hariri, who played a key role in the exchange.

The negotiations were conducted between the Israeli and Lebanese governments through the auspices of the ICRC, with France acting as a guarantor for implementation of the deal by both sides.

Reuters adds: In Beirut, about 50,000 people marched in an emotional procession yesterday at the funeral of Lebanese Hizbullah guerrillas whose bodies were returned home this week.

Sheikh Hassan Nasrallah, the Hizbullah leader, gave a fiery speech in which he emphasized that the swap deal was a humanitarian act and that his group's fighters would press on with their war of attrition against Israeli soldiers in south Lebanon.

Mordechai: Gov't trying to change situation in Lebanon

By DAVID RUDGE and ANNE O'SULLIVAN

Israel's initiative to withdraw the IDF from Lebanon under UN Security Council Resolution 425 is continuing, but "not at the tempo and not within the appropriate parameters to bring it to a conclusion," according to Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai.

"Therefore, because there is no other way, we are continuing to operate in the best possible manner (in south Lebanon)," Mordechai told reporters during a visit to wounded soldiers at Haifa's Rambam hospital on Friday.

"The price we are paying is high. It should be noted, however, that residents of the north have a high level of security and quality of life," he said.

"We are nonetheless seeking all ways, on the operational and political levels, to try and change the situation," Mordechai added.

The defense minister, accompanied by Chief of Staff Lt-Gen. Amnon Lipkin-Shahak, visited the four Nahal Brigade soldiers who were wounded in the roadside bombing in the security zone early Thursday morning.

Lt. Amit Asulin, 21, of Moshav

Bnei Zion, and Sgt. Orr Cohen, 19, of Jerusalem, were killed in the bomb attack, near Talousa village, for which Hizbullah claimed responsibility.

Earlier, Mordechai visited the security zone and was briefed on the bombing.

After being briefed by officers, Mordechai also spoke with the Nahal soldiers who took part in the mission and subsequent rescue.

According to defense officials, Mordechai emerged with the belief that the detonation of the roadside charge could not have been prevented.

"The unit, after being hit by the explosive devices, behaved in an exemplary way and the army used all the means at its disposal for treating and evacuating the casualties. There are certainly lessons which will be learned by the officers and soldiers in the field," Mordechai told reporters at Rambam.

Regarding missing IAF navigator Ron Arad, Mordechai said: "We continue to hope to find some way, some channel, to obtain information and reach a process which at the end, I hope, would lead to the return of Ron Arad and the rest of our prisoners and missing."

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Turkey quake kills over 100

By ALISTAIR BELL

ANKARA (Reuters) — A powerful earthquake rocked heavily populated areas of southern Turkey yesterday, killing over 100 people and forcing thousands to flee in panic.

"It is a major natural disaster, with all that entails," said a spokesman for a crisis center at Prime Minister Mesut Yilmaz's office in the capital.

The city of Adana, a sprawling conurbation of several million people near the Mediterranean coast, was the worst hit.

Television pictures showed pictures of distressed residents digging through the rubble of collapsed buildings with their bare hands. A mother ran through the streets clutching a child with a head wound.

Turkish monitors said the quake, also felt in Cyprus, Syria and Israel, measured 6.3 on the Richter scale. The casualties and damage were confined to Turkey.

The state-run Anatolian news agency said some 800 people were injured, mostly in the center of Adana and the outlying town of Ceyhan.

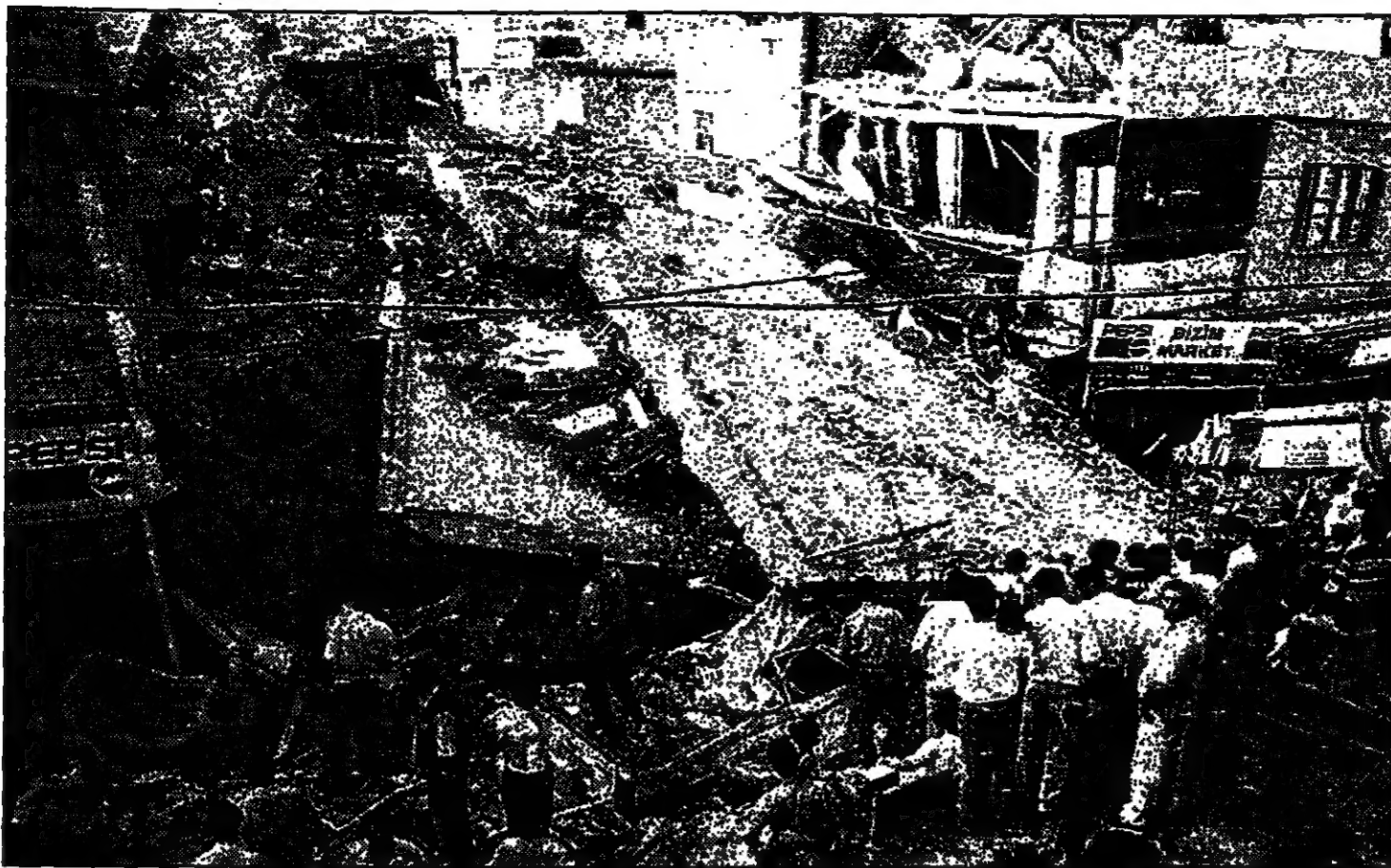
Ill-equipped state hospital officials made urgent requests for blood donors.

Thousands of people tried to escape Adana — the hub of a humid, cotton producing plain known in ancient times as Cilicia.

"The traffic is completely blocked. People are trying to get out in fear of another tremor," a resident contacted by telephone told Reuters.

At least 16 aftershocks rocked the area after the initial quake struck around 5 p.m. (1400 GMT). It was felt at tourist resorts to the west but there were no reports of injuries.

Western diplomats said there



Rescue workers search for victims near an apartment building which was devastated by a big earthquake in the southern Turkish city of Adana yesterday. The quake measured 6.3 on the Richter scale and has killed over 100.

was no damage to Adana's Incirlik air base from where US and British jets patrol a no-fly zone over the Kurdish enclave of northern Iraq.

It was not known whether the Ceyhan oil terminal was affected, the crisis center official said. Iraqi crude from an Iraq-Turkey pipeline has been loading at Ceyhan in recent weeks under the

"oil-for-food" deal with the United Nations. Prime Minister Yilmaz and several cabinet members were to visit Adana today, the official said.

Earthquakes and tremors are common in Turkey. An earthquake of 5.0 on the Richter scale shook the east of the country in April, injuring more than a dozen people. The quake that struck Kobe in

Japan in 1995 measured 7.2 on the Richter scale. The biggest tremor in Turkey in recent years killed 485 people in the town of Erzurum in 1992.

That disaster prompted complaints that many buildings in the town, frequently hit by tremors, had been constructed without taking the earthquake danger into consideration.

Turkey's Red Crescent Muslim aid organization sent 400 tents, 2,000 blankets and two portable kitchens to Adana, where officials made television appeals to residents to spend the night outdoors for fear of aftershocks.

The transport ministry said Adana airport remained open, although telephone contact with the city was sporadic.

Rule of law vital, says Iran president

TEHRAN (Reuters) — Iranian President Mohammad Khatami, his bid for a "civil society" under attack from the conservative judiciary, yesterday told senior judges the rule of law was central to a healthy Islamic society.

Addressing a two-day gathering of judiciary officials, Khatami said all necessary measures must be taken to ensure the courts remained independent and free of political factionalism.

"A society that enjoys the rule of law is a healthy and stable one," state radio quoted the president as saying. "The independence of the judge is a very important factor. The judges and the judiciary must be neutral and free of all (political) tendencies," Khatami said.

The president's comments appeared to be aimed squarely at his conservative critics, in particular those in the judiciary who have targeted a key Khatami ally in a high-profile corruption probe.

Supporters of the president have denounced the case against Tehran Mayor Gholamhossein Karbaschi as a show trial put on by a vindictive judiciary bent on bringing him down and undermining the moderate Khatami. The judiciary denies the charge. The trial of Karbaschi, accused of embezzling city assets, resumes on June 30.

Earlier this week, conservatives in the parliament, or Majlis, forced the resignation of the interior minister, also a close Khatami aide, blaming him for what they said was an increase in social and political tensions. Both the Karbaschi trial and the ouster of the interior minister have led some conservatives to propose a wholesale purge of those ministers most associated with Khatami's attempt to ease social and political restrictions within the Islamic system.

So far direct attacks on Khatami — elected in a surprise landslide over an established conservative in May, 1997 — remain off limits. Yesterday the president warned the judges, including arch-conservative judiciary head Ayatollah Mohammad Yazdi, that political sneers violated established Islamic principles.

"The presumption of innocence is one of the brilliant principles of Islam which is also incorporated in our constitution. Considering the importance that Islam attaches to respect for man, extreme care must be taken in dealing with the rights and dignity of human beings. The Islamic system is expected to protect people's rights and if individuals or organizations violate these rights, they should be prosecuted," Khatami said.

Russia's PM urges quick austerity action

By MAURA REYNOLDS

MOSCOW (AP) — Russia's prime minister urged parliament leaders yesterday to act quickly to implement his austerity plan, saying swift action is needed to save the country's economy.

Premier Sergei Kiriyenko's talks with leaders of the State Duma came as analysts from the International Monetary Fund began work on a possible bailout loan to help stabilize Russia's precarious economy.

Investors, anxious about Russia's markets for weeks, had a new case of nerves Friday, with the Russian stock market dropping five percent and heavy selling of government treasury bonds. That prompted the

Central Bank to raise key interest rates sharply to 80 percent from 60 percent in an effort to keep money investors from fleeing.

The Kremlin's liaison with international lenders said he was not troubled by the market drop and was confident the IMF would approve a new loan. "Such fluctuations are inevitable and one should not think that once talks with the IMF get under way, all indicators will start to rise," Deputy Prime Minister Anatoly Chubais said, according to the Interfax news agency.

The IMF team, which arrived late Friday, began deliberations with Russian officials yesterday, Interfax reported. Russia wants \$10 billion to \$15 billion in new

lending to build up its Central Bank reserves in order to back up its government bonds and forestall a run on the ruble.

The IMF decided Thursday to release a \$670 million installment in an existing \$9 billion loan. That installment had been delayed to press Russia to do more to balance the budget and reform key areas of the economy, especially the ineffective tax-collection system.

Kiriyenko presented a new austerity plan to parliament earlier this week that officials said appeared to meet many of the fund's criteria. But the hard-line lower house of parliament, the State Duma, has delayed action on legislation needed to implement the plan. Some investors fear the Duma

may not pass the measures before it recesses July 3. Kiriyenko met yesterday with the head of the Duma's largest faction, Communist leader Gennady Zyuganov, and urged him to accelerate action on the plan, Interfax reported, citing Kiriyenko's spokesman.

Russia's stock market has lost about half its value since the beginning of the year, and the Central Bank has been using hard currency reserves to keep the value of the ruble steady. The economic crisis comes after Russia made what appeared to be significant progress last year — the stock market was the world's best performer, and the economy posted its first growth since the Soviet collapse.

Einstein's less than fetching love letters

NEW YORK (Reuters) — Perhaps proving the theory that interest in the love lives of famous people is relative, nine love letters from Albert Einstein to a girlfriend didn't excite a mass of interest at auction Friday.

"We're very disappointed," said Matthew Weigman, senior vice president of corporate affairs at Sotheby's, which conducted the auction. "While there had been wide interest prior to the sale, there was insufficient bidding."

The love notes from the world famous physicist to Margarita Konenkova, an alleged Soviet spy, failed to fetch the undisclosed minimum asking price.

In 1996, a collection of Einstein's letters to his first wife, Mileva Maric, sold at auction for slightly less than \$900,000. The same year, a manuscript of Einstein's theory of relativity sold for a whopping \$5 million.

The Einstein items included the nine let-

ters, an engraved gold wristwatch, snapshots of Einstein and other memorabilia. The lot was expected to bring in between \$250,000 and \$350,000 but the top bid was only \$180,000.

Some of the letters clearly show Einstein's fondness for Konenkova. "Write me soon, if you can find the time, and be kissed by your A. Einstein," the scientist wrote in one, dated November 8, 1945.

WORLD

in brief

Eritrea, Ethiopia praise UN resolution

ASMARA (Reuters) — Eritrea and Ethiopia yesterday welcomed a UN Security Council resolution calling for an end to their seven-week border conflict.

"At least for the first time, we feel that an attempt to ensure the concerns of both countries are being addressed. So we think that it is very positive," Eritrean presidential adviser Yemane Gebreab told reporters at a news briefing in Asmara.

Ethiopia said the resolution, passed on Friday, backed their demand that Eritrean forces withdraw from contested territory to positions held on May 6, when the conflict began.

The Security Council resolution condemned the use of force by both sides and urged the Horn of Africa neighbors to call a cease-fire. It also supported the peace initiative of the OAU, and the current moratorium on air strikes.

N Korea demands return of dead submariners

SEOUL (AP) — North Korea yesterday blamed South Korea for the death of nine North Korean crewmen aboard a submarine captured by the South and demanded the return of the vessel and its dead crew, a news agency reported.

The North Korean submarine was found tangled in a South Korean fishing net Monday. When it was towed ashore and searched Friday, South Korean navy commandos found the bodies of the crewmen — all shot to death, apparently to avoid capture.

North Korea accused South Korea of failing to rescue the submarine after it developed mechanical problems during a training mission.

Clashes in E. Timor

DILI, East Timor (Reuters) — Hundreds of East Timorese seeking independence from Indonesia clashed with government supporters and troops yesterday after the death of a 21-year-old man rallied thousands into a protest march through the territory's capital.

Family members said Manuel Soares was shot dead as he sat outside his house when Indonesian troops opened fire to quell a clash between pro-Indonesia and pro-independence supporters yesterday in Manatuto, about 100 km east of Dili.

The atmosphere in Dili grew tense as three European ambassadors arrived in East Timor on a fact-finding mission and rival political groups hurled stones at each other during a procession of Soares's body in an ambulance through the city.

Indonesia's President B.J. Habibie has offered East Timor a form of "special status" within Indonesia to give it greater autonomy, a proposal dismissed as meaningless by Timorese and Portugal.

French army finds crashed plane of UN envoy

ABIDJAN (Reuters) — French army helicopters have located the wreckage of a plane that crashed near Abidjan with UN Special Envoy to Angola Aloune Blondin Beye on board, a French army spokesman said yesterday.

The plane came down on Friday night in a lagoon area near the town of Lepe, some 50 km to the east of Abidjan, a spokesman for the 43rd BIMA regiment based in Ivory Coast told Reuters.

He said access to the site of the crash was difficult and he was unable to say if anyone had survived.

German soldiers in Nazi salute probe

REGENSBURG (Reuters) — Police in southern Germany said yesterday they were investigating reports that three German soldiers gave Nazi salutes during a World Cup match against Iran.

The incident apparently took place while about 100 people gathered in a cafe in the center of the southern German town of Regensburg on Thursday evening to watch the match, in which Germany beat Iran 2-0.

The soldiers were aged between 18 and 24. Witnesses said they wore T-shirts printed with the words "France Assault-98".

Thailand announces annual elephant day

BANGKOK (AP) — Every March 13 will be National Elephant Day in Thailand, Bangkok newspapers reported yesterday. The government designated the day to heighten public awareness about the plight of the gentle giant, which has been Thailand's national animal since 1963.

Loss of habitat and exploitation by humans has caused the number of elephants in Thailand to decline to 6,000 from an estimated 300,000 at the turn of the century.

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Peace parties win N.Irish poll

By MARTIN COWLEY

BELFAST (Reuters) — Supporters of Northern Ireland's historic peace deal yesterday won a decisive majority in elections to a provincial assembly that will implement key parts of the accord.

Drawing support from traditionally riven Protestant and pro-Irish Catholic communities, they defeated a challenge from pro-British stalwarts who say the deal appeases Irish militants.

The assembly is a central pillar of a peace deal signed in April aimed at ending three decades of conflict which has killed more than 3,600 people.

"This is a vital step towards genuine peace and political stability in Northern Ireland," Britain's most senior minister in the province, Northern Ireland secretary Mo Mowlam, told a news conference as the final result neared.

The victory left pro-accord parties in a strong position to implement the deal, though their opponents are certain to continue to try to block plans for closer links to the Irish republic and other nationalist demands.

Opponents of the peace deal narrowly failed to reach their target of 30 seats that would have armed them with blocking powers in the 108-seat assembly.

Parties supporting the peace deal won 80 seats, while anti-accord parties got 28.

Protestant politicians who favour continued British rule and Catholic politicians who want union with the Irish republic signed the peace deal for different political reasons.

But they all say they are committed to peace and the accord obliges them to cooperate in the power-sharing assembly, which

will take on some powers currently exercised by British ministers. Britain hailed the result, which followed sweeping referendum approval for the deal in May, as a further vital proof that Protestants and Catholics want the accord to achieve an end to strife and sectarianism.

"We are going to have an assembly that will work," said Mowlam, who faces a big dilution of her powers in the province.

"Following the agreement in the referendum, the people have spoken again. They have voted now overwhelmingly for parties that support the agreement."

The Ulster Unionists (UUP) emerged the biggest party with 28 after picking up the final seat in a count agonizingly prolonged by a complex single transferable vote system.

Its leader David Trimble is expected to become the province's First Minister, heading a 12-seat executive, after seeing off a bruising challenge from his main Protestant rival, the Democratic Unionist Party (DUP).

The DUP, led by Ian Paisley, a veteran political firebrand famed for his unyielding pro-British stance, won 20 seats, while his allies won eight more.

Nationalist leader John Hume, leader of the second biggest party, is tipped to be Deputy First Minister. A string of successes highlighted his Social Democratic and Labor Party's position as the main party of the Catholic minority.

The Irish Republican Army's political allies in Sinn Fein won 18 seats, pushing their support to a record 17.6 percent of first preference votes.

Sinn Fein leader Gerry Adams was also elected and is expected to win a seat in the executive.



Gerry Adams celebrates after being one of the first to be elected to the Northern Ireland Assembly on Friday.

US high court sets new standard for sexual harassment

WASHINGTON (Reuters) —

Two landmark Supreme Court rulings Friday made it easier to bring lawsuits over sexual harassment at work, prompting the Paula Jones legal team to argue it will help her case against President Clinton.

But Clinton's lawyer said the facts were different in the Jones case and the Supreme Court decision would not "undercut" the ruling that dismissed Jones's lawsuit.

By a resounding 7-2 vote on the last day of its 1997-98 term, the nation's high court ruled in two cases that employers may be held liable for misconduct by their supervisors, dramatically rewriting sexual harassment law. The justices also created a two-part test to be used by employers in defending themselves against sexual harassment lawsuits, which have soared nationwide during the 1990s.

The rulings drew a strongly worded dissent by Justice Clarence Thomas, whose 1991 confirmation hearing engulfed the nation in a debate over sexual harassment as he denied charges by his former aide, Anita Hill, that he sexually harassed her.

The high court did not directly mention Jones, who is appealing a federal judge's dismissal of her sexual harassment suit against Clinton. In a telephone interview with CNBC, Jones said she was "excited" by the ruling, and she hopes there will be "a good outcome" when the appeals court decides her case.

John Whitehead of the Rutherford Institute, which has arranged for Jones's legal representation, said the ruling "greatly enhances the chances" the appeals court will send the case back to the

judge for a trial.

The Supreme Court held that an employee who refuses the unwelcome and threatening sexual advances of a supervisor, yet suffers no adverse job consequences, may bring a lawsuit. Whitehead noted that part of the ruling and said the Jones team will cite the Supreme Court decision when it files its written legal arguments with the appeals court at the end of next month.

"I think it helps us a lot," he said. In dismissing Jones's lawsuit in April, U.S. District Judge Susan Webber Wright ruled that a key factor was Jones did not suffer any tangible economic harm as an Arkansas state worker. Jones alleged that Clinton, then governor, exposed himself, asked her for oral sex at a hotel room in 1991 and then said he knew her immediate supervisor.

Jones has interpreted the remark as a threat, but the judge said it was too ambiguous. Clinton has denied all the allegations. The Supreme Court pointedly expressed no opinion on whether a single circumstance in the Jones case — was sufficient to constitute sexual harassment.

Clinton's lawyer, Robert Bennett, said in a statement the facts in the Supreme Court case "are clearly distinguishable" from the Jones case. "The decision does not undercut the persuasive opinion of Judge Wright throwing out Ms. Jones's case," he said. "Additionally, the Supreme Court's requirement that there be severe and persuasive conduct should be very helpful to us" in the appeals court.

New clashes in Algeria after singer's slaying

By RACHID KHAFI

ALGIERS (AP) — Protesters clashed with riot police in the ethnic Berber capital of Tizi-Ouzou for a second day yesterday, leaving one person dead, as local anger simmered over the slaying of Berber singer-activist Louane Matoub.

Nearly 1,000 youths who gathered outside a hospital to view Matoub's body tried to build barricades then stoned police, who struck back with clubs and tear gas, residents in the city east of Algiers said on condition of anonymity.

Smoke from burning tires and trash shrouded the city where youths a day earlier attacked a dozen state buildings, sacking or burning five of them including an airline office, welfare agency and gasoline station.

One demonstrator was shot and killed and another suffered a head wound, a hospital source said on condition of anonymity.

Several youths considered as leaders of the violence were arrested, but no figures were available, said residents in the city 100 kms east of Algiers.

Protests began Thursday, when the 42-year-old singer was believed killed by Moslem militants at a fake roadblock outside his native village. Youths burned tires and tore down Arabic-language road signs and telephone poles before dispersing on their own.

The singer, a defender of Berber culture and a fierce critic of both the military-backed government and Moslem militants, was the latest Algerian artist to be slain during a six-year-old Moslem insurgency that has claimed more than 75,000 lives.

Amish drug arrests reveal long-held secret

By PETER DUBARTINE

INTERCOURSE, Pa. (AP) — Across the rolling farmland, idyllic scenes play out one after another: a bearded man in a straw hat driving horses across a grassy field. A horse and buggy pulling a lad in black rollerblades down a country lane.

A woman, wearing long sleeves in the summer heat, hanging laundry on an outdoor line.

The peaceful southeastern Pennsylvania setting that has long charmed the outside world with its simple ways and innocence was shaken last week by a jarring truth little known beyond parts of Lancaster County: The Amish have a drug problem.

"People here have known that there has been a lot of drug problems with Amish youth, and with liquor, too," said Jack Meyer, a local businessman and member of the Brethren, a sect similar to the Amish. Meyer, who offers tourists horse-and-buggy rides, and other observers say the Amish had until recently dealt with the problem quietly — not as a group, but within individual families.

No more. News that two Amish men were charged with dealing cocaine in their communities and for a motorcycle gang called

the Pagans, no less — has the leaders of the county's 22,000 Old Order Amish, the most conservative Anabaptist sect, sadly acknowledging a struggle with drugs for at least a decade.

"I'm scared," said an 81-year-old local bishop, reading his Bible on a hot afternoon. "I'm really scared about what has happened." Alcohol and marijuana had long troubled the community, but then several months ago people started hearing talk about Amish youths using harder drugs. The bishops sent a letter to all the churches, warning about the cocaine.

Abner Stoltzfus, 24, and Abner King Stoltzfus, 23, are not related, but their names are as common around here as shoofly pie. The federal indictment against them unveiled troubles that the Amish, typically portrayed as separate from the world and content that way, did not want known.

An Amish farmer who stood on a ladder picking cherries from a tree underscored this, asking a reporter if people were disappointed with them. "The big thing about Amish people," Meyer said, "is they want to set a good example."

Also charged were eight members of the Pagans, who sold the drugs to the two Stoltzfuses. The

Amish men then distributed the drugs to members of youth groups known as the Crickets, the Antiques and the Pilgrims at hoedowns between 1993 and 1997.

State troopers in Lancaster, who patrol much of this area's Amish country, say the Pagans have always ridden on the same roads as the Amish, who rarely call on police. Many Amish were willing to stop work on farms and in shops to talk about the arrests, but they flatly refused to give their names.

That, too, reflects their desire to be left alone. Some simply associated motorcycles with the problem. "My neighbor has a motorcycle. I'll try to stay friends with him," said a 74-year-old retired farmer, driving his buggy up to the White Horse Machine Shop outside Intercourse. "Hope he'll do the same."

For the last few years, reporters have been quoting the Amish by name, contrary to the group's long-held religious rules. But after an article on Amish small businesses appeared in the March issue of *Forbes* magazine, many of the county's 84 bishops told parishioners to stop giving out names.

"It really created a stir in the community," said Louise Stoltzfus, a

former member of the Old Order and author of *Traces of Wisdom: Amish Women and the Pursuit of Life's Simple Pleasures*. "People in the community felt they shouldn't brag about making money."

The 45-year-old Stoltzfus, who is not related to the two men, believes substance abuse problems in the community are more than a decade old. "When I was in my 20s, I knew of some Amish youth involved with drugs," she said. "When they say 10 years, they're saying the problem is growing."

Despite appearances that the modern world is rapidly closing in, the Amish, who run more than 1,000 small businesses in the county, have long been tied to the outside world.

"There's a myth that these are innocent, barefoot peasants," said Donald Kraybill, author of *The Riddle of Amish Culture* and provost of Messiah College in Grantham, Pa. "People don't realize how much they interact with the outside world."

Much of the Amish aversion to technology is also a myth. True, they eschew electricity because wires would connect them to the outside, but they use gas-powered washing machines, refrigerators and other appliances.

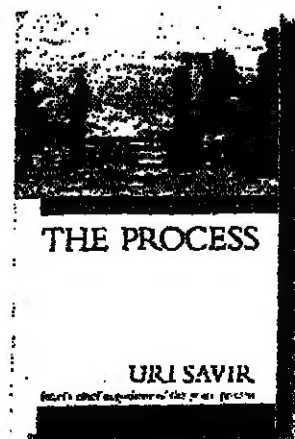
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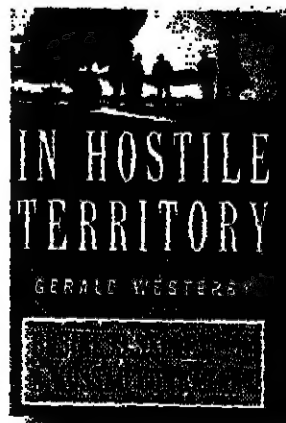
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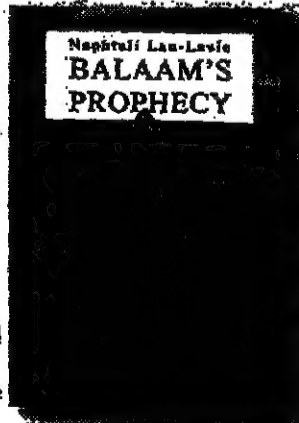
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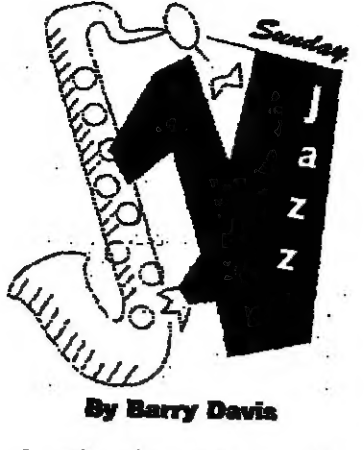
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המגזין

Jazz masters on the mark



By Barry Davis

'Sumpitious' is an epithet that immediately springs to mind on listening to the remastering of a 1968 Bill Evans recording - *At the Montreux Jazz Festival*. Exactly three decades on, Evans's playing sounds as crisp and energetic as in those far-flung days

AT THE MONTREUX JAZZ FESTIVAL
Bill Evans
(Verve Master Edition - Polygram Records)

IN A SOULFUL MOOD
Charlie Parker
(BME)

of the fabled Swiss jazz festival. It's easy to conjure up surrealist images of his delicate caressing of the piano keys drifting gently across the placid waters of Lake Lemman.

Although Bill Evans was, first and foremost, a lyrical pianist, he was also one of the few white musicians accepted within the narrower circles of hard bop, despite the pronounced sensitivity and seeming fragility of his playing. He was the first "modal" pianist, and he displayed an unparalleled ability to imbue the jazz piano with a romantic "Rubinsteinian" classical flavor.

Above all, Evans was the first jazz musician to add modern tension to romanticism. This is abundantly evident as he launches into his own composition, "One for Helen," at the start of the first set. Opening with measured syncopation, the breaks are soon withdrawn as he is joined by bassist Eddie Gomez and drummer Jack de Johnette in a roller coaster jazz free-for-all. Gomez, in particular, showing off some of his talents in a short but emphatic solo.

The fact that this short-lived trio includes de Johnette - one of the most energetic drummers of his generation - and Gomez, who matured musically on the acoustic bass in the Seventies of fusion and free jazz, may explain why practically all the ballad material on the album is played solely by Evans. But this is deftly both countered and amplified by his colleagues. The Earl Zindars eponymous number, "Mother of Earl," is the most bluesy of the tracks, with Gomez and de Johnette stepping into the spotlight with solos that are quite a rarity in the annals of Evans's live recordings.

Of course, as a distinguished member of the former Miles Davis band members club, Evans could not entirely ignore the great man's works, and "Nardis" allows de Johnette a further opportunity to wow the cultured Swiss audience with the controlled dynamism of his musicianship, while Gomez sneaks in a few bars of smooth plucking. Jack de Johnette is one of the few drummers capable of playing comfortably on both sides of the beat - anticipating it or lagging behind as the situation demands - and this skill forms a perfect backdrop for some of Evans's lighter ivory traipsing on the album.

We are also allowed a breather from the energetic - for Evans - pace of the Montreux sets with a couple of back-to-back solo renditions of "Quiet Now" and the Gershwin classic "I Loves You Porgy". The album ends with a tour de force in the form of Evans's own "Walkin' Up", and the privileged Swiss crowd is suitably appreciative.

WITH 26 ORIGINAL recordings of the tracks and almost 80 minutes of music, saxophonist Charlie Parker - *In a Soulful Mood* has something for everyone and anyone who holds the one of the undisputed kings of bebop dear to his or her heart.

There are renditions galore of such beloved numbers as the hard-hitting "Yardbird Suite," "Night in Tunisia," "Loverman," (made famous by Billie Holiday's heart-rending version) "Klact-Oveseds-Tene" and "Scrapple from the Apple". But there is also an abundance of slower ballads, the likes of Gershwin's "Embraceable You", and the bluesy "My Old Flame", finishing off with the silky sounds of "Berlin's," "How Deep Is the Ocean".



Jazz master pianist Bill Evans on a sumptuous 1968 Montreux Festival remastering.

While compilation albums often tend to provide the casual listener with a Woodworth-style musical potpourri, *In a Soulful Mood* not only features Parker's best line-ups with such illustrious names as Miles Davis, Errol Garner, Barney Kessel, Max Roach, and J.J. Johnson, it also includes some ver-

sions which had remained unissued for over thirty years. The rarer offerings, include long lost first-take cuts of standards like "My Old" and "Don't Blame Me", featuring both Davis and Roach.

Miles Davis once impulsively said that one only needed four words to encompass the entire medium of jazz - Louis Armstrong and Charlie Parker. While there are, surely, a number of jazz lovers who might venture to dispute a great man's oversimplified observation, there is plenty of evidence on this album to suggest that Davis was not entirely off the mark.

Exactly for the piano High Five gets a raise

By MICHAEL AJZENSTADT

Pianist Emanuel Ax wasn't as jet-lagged as he might have been. Being a globe-trotting classical musician has become a sort of a norm today, he says. He was practicing at the Israel Philharmonic Orchestra Guest House, getting ready for his first rehearsal with the IPO after an absence of some years. He was working on Beethoven's second piano concerto which he will play tonight and through Tuesday at the Haifa Auditorium and Wednesday at the Mann Auditorium in Tel Aviv.

But the Lvov-born American pianist, who achieved worldwide fame after winning the first ever Arthur Schnitzler International Piano Master Competition in Israel in 1974, was more than happy to relax for a while - "I practice steadily but not too much" - before returning to the piano.

This fast-track musical traveler comments that "it used to be different. Before planes it took a week to travel from Europe to the USA and ideally we should have kept the same schedule today as musicians did 75 years ago."

But this is not the reality, far from it. Musicians, Ax included, arrive in a new place, rehearse for a day or two, perform two concerts, cross the Atlantic or the Pacific, and immediately perform again.

"One could and maybe should do a sociological study about this issue," he says. "But as I see it, one of the reasons that orchestras play so many more concerts these days is because their players demand year-round jobs. In the Forties, for example, the Cleveland Orchestra had a 26-week season and everybody was very happy, but no orchestra can do that now, and



Emanuel Ax plays the IPO.

when you have a 48-week season you need conductors and soloists to fill the concerts."

But Ax is far from complaining. Sipping his soft drink directly from the can, his warmhearted, accommodating smile never leaves his face. "I have such a good job. It's wonderful, there is nothing to complain about," he enthuses.

And it all began in Israel: "Five years before the Rubinstein Competition I participated in the Chopin Competition in Warsaw. I made the finals, won some prizes and even got a few concerts in Warsaw as a result, but there was no real recognition there. After Rubinstein I had no need to participate in any other competition. Everything opened up for me, I was courted by one and all."

Winning the Rubinstein, he adds, "was like winning the lottery. After all, you don't go there to beat the other guy, or just to do better than your colleagues. You go hoping that someone will hear you and that something will emerge out of it."

Which is why Ax definitely advises any young and aspiring

musician to "try your luck in competitions, it's still one of the few ways to get known." Yet he comments that the fact that there are so many competitions around the world these days makes it quite impossible for major competition winners to make impressive careers just on that basis.

"As absurd as it might sound, the more talent there is, the more difficult it is to get known." And he agrees that this is probably one of the reasons why none of the other Rubinstein winners after him has managed a career like his.

Outside of focusing on his career, Ax has little spare time, which is why he is not engaged in full time teaching. "I have one student in Juilliard, the Israeli Shai Wozner, and it's great, but I literally have no time for more students and I don't think it's fair to have students and not work with them steadily on an ongoing basis."

As for his sole student, Ax has nothing but compliments. "He plays practically everything better than I do. So it's not the case of me telling him what to do or how to do it. Rather we talk about music and, believe me, I learn as much as he does."

Ax, an avid sports fan, - of tennis and the "New York Knicks although less so than we used to" - never had a formal Jewish education. "In Lvov my parents were pretty assimilated so we never had a bar mitzva. Once we moved to the USA that changed a little bit, but I cannot read any Hebrew and whenever there is a Jewish holiday I feel sort of guilty and sad." Yet although his pianist wife, whom he met in Juilliard, is Japanese, Ax believes that their two children (aged 19 and 15) definitely breathe the cultural Jewish tradition which has become part of their life in New York.

Ax has always been very lucky in the recording studio as well. He has recorded concert, solo albums and chamber music on a regular basis for many years now and even during the current recession in the classical music recording business, he still records more than a few albums. And when he can, Emanuel Ax plays and records contemporary music as well.

"Ultimately music is composer driven," he observes. "If we don't have new composers who excite the audience, music will have a problem surviving." And one way of galvanizing the audience is for "people like me to get enthusiastic about today's composers and transmit that excitement to the audience."



By Emily Hauser

When boy band Hi Five was first engineered and thrust onto the public, I was horrified. Not only was the act a money-making ploy with malleable pre-pubescent girls as its target - arguably standard in the biz - but the music was, simply, awful: paper-thin production, terrible harmonies, insipid lyrics. Hed Artzi might as well have stuck signs on the band members: "We have no respect for our audience."

KOOLAM ROKDIM
ACHSHAV
Hi Five
Hed Artzi

BIKINI 2
Bikini
Hed Artzi

Be that as it may, the pre-pubescent girl market, not known for its skills of discernment, took Hi Five to its collective heart. I once saw a group of 10-year-old girls putting together a Hi Five dance routine in a school hallway, when I told one of them that I had once walked past group-member Amir Fay Gutman as he talked on his cellular phone, she all but fainted.

All of this has meant market success, and, fortunately, for the sound of Hi Five's sophomore effort, someone decided to take some of the profit and invest in the group. While I would hardly call *Koolam Rokdim Achshav* (Everybody's Dancing Now) great music, the improvement is so marked that the group deserves some recognition.

This is a smooth pop production, with enough variations on the theme to keep it interesting, the sort of album parents will be able to enjoy a bit before they get sick of it. The lyrics occasionally acknowledge that young girls have brains in their heads, and complex emotions - which is more than can be said for much of the music being peddled to adults these days.

The one thing that hasn't changed is that, for the most part, these boys don't sing very well. Back when I was eight and calculating the difference between my age and Donny Osmond's (seven years), I was at the very least listening to a boy band blessed with grand voices, and great harmonizing skills.

This time around, Hi Five manages to play their trade pretty well. They may even be raising the expectations their fans will someday bring to more grown-up music.

THE BIGGEST failure of most of the dance music genres - drum 'n' bass, techno, house, ambient, trip hop, etc - is an almost mind-numbingly sameness to the tracks. Formulas are created and locked onto, and often, one song sounds pretty much like the next.

It's just this trap that Bikini has managed to avoid in its second release. *Bikini 2* is by and large a relaxed journey through trip hop and ambient, with a bit of drum 'n' bass thrown in for good measure, but there are so many other elements to the music that it's possible to listen to the disc over and over again with little fear of boredom.

From the sheer variety, it would seem the band was eager to give as broad an expression to their talents as they could. *Bikini 2* kicks off with a traditional Middle Eastern melody, redesigned for the technological Nineties. A few tracks later, it's "Nasich Hahoshech" ("Prince of Darkness"), with a jazzy trumpet and castanets. Then there's "Ani Itach" ("I'm With You"), featuring some gorgeous guitar work.

The act itself is made up of cellist Karni Postel (whose classical talents appear throughout the album) and Haim Laroz, but *Bikini 2* also features the collaborative faculties of Asaf Amdurski, Barry Saharov, Yossi Fine, and Johnny Shuali, all well-known for forging inspired alliances between pop-rock, jazz, blues and the odd computer.

The result is truly excellent, a tremendously interesting effort to take the newest forms and create something intelligent and grounded. Rather than reject the past, Bikini has shown that the future of music - good music, anyway - depends on the judicious use of the best of all that has gone before.

DID YOU KNOW?
Q: What band used to be home to Shai Lahav, producer of *Koolam Rokdim Achshav*, and writer of many of the album's songs?
A: Lahav was a founding and leading member of Mofa Ha'arnavot Shel Dr. Kasper, nicknamed "Hakasperim."

NEWS

of the muse

Hirsute theater in Ramat Gan

The Beit Zvi Drama School is rehearsing *Hair*, the musical that defined the Age of Aquarius. When it burst on an astonished world in 1967 *Hair* had everything that was shocking: nudity, sex, drugs, bad language and above all long hair and rebellion. It also had some of the greatest tunes ever designed to set the feet 'a tapping. *Hair*'s Vietnam protest-era sentiments may look a little quaint in the second millennium, but the youthful spirit of Jerome Ragny's book and Galt McDermott's music remains intact. It's been performed all over the world. Milos Forman made a movie of it in 1976 and the most recent local production was in 1991. This version is directed by the able Gadi Inbar and the choreography is by Yair Vardi, artistic director and general manager of the Suzanne Dellal dance center. The production opens August 13 at the Ramat Gan Theater. *Helen Kaye*

Borders open in Italy

The Haifa Theater's production of Shmulik Levy's *Borders* won a standing ovation at the Dionysia Festival in Rome last week. Although the Syrians pulled out of this Mediterranean/Middle East festival, other Arab countries didn't and the Haifa actors partied into the night with their Egyptian and Algerian colleagues with the result that the artistic directors of all three decided to create a forum for future collaborations. Inshallah! *Helen Kaye*

Sternheim festival at Habimah

Four of German playwright Carl Sternheim's plays are premiering at a weekend marathon at Habimah over the July 10 weekend. The idea came from actor/translator Doron Tavori, and he also stars in the plays which satirize the German bourgeoisie of the teens and the 20s. After that weekend, each of the plays will be performed in repertory on a specific day. They are *Underpants* about what happens when these intimate garments slip off poor Louisa during a parade for the Kaiser; *The Snob* follows Louisa's son as he buys up shares on a tip; *1913* is set on the eve of World War I and in *The Fossil*, the family attempts to deal with Germany's defeat. The directors are, respectively, Gedalia Besser, Moshe Perlestein, Gadi Roll and iconoclastic US director Robert Woodruff. Tavori, Roll and Woodruff collaborated on two plays when Roll ran the Beersheba Theater, and this project got them together again. *Helen Kaye*

Annual opera workshop set to go

The summer opera program of the Israel Vocal Arts Institute takes place July 12 - August 8 in Tel Aviv. This is a hub where young local and international opera singers hone their craft aided by some of the best teachers in the world, and besides hours of private classes, it features a lot of exciting events for the general public. These start with master classes given by such illustrious opera VIPs as Joan Dornemann (the program director), Justino Diaz, Mignone Dunn, Paulo Montarsolo, Diane Soverio and others. This summer, the very popular mini opera productions which are presented during the last weeks of the program include *Il Barbiere di Siviglia*, *Rigoletto*, *Tales of Hoffman*, *Adriano Lecocquer* and Sondheim's *A Little Night Music*. Ticket prices for most events range between NIS 20 - 60. *Michael Ajzenstadt*

JSO home from successful tour

The Jerusalem Symphony Orchestra, IBA returned recently from a very successful nine concert tour of South America under the leadership of Yehuda Scharovsky. Playing music by Dvorak, Tchaikovsky and Shlomo Gronich, the orchestra was applauded throughout the continent and immediately invited for more tours in the very near future. *Michael Ajzenstadt*

Efraty Wins Major Prize in Vienna

Israeli soprano Anat Efraty has just won a major opera prize presented in Austria for her work in general, and for her portrayal of the one-woman opera *The Diary of Anna Frank* (by Russian composer Fried). This production is now in great demand by festivals all over the world. Efraty, who has finished a two year residency with the Vienna Staatsoper will perform the role of Marcellina in *Fidelio* on July 1 at the Staatsoper, a festive worldwide telecast performance of Beethoven's opera to celebrate European monetary union. *Michael Ajzenstadt*

Talmi Gets Hamburg post

Israeli maestro Yoav Talmi, until recently the music director of the San Diego Symphony Orchestra, has been appointed music director of the Hamburg Symphony Orchestra starting September 2000 for three years with an additional two year option. Talmi made his debut in Hamburg last December to great critical and audience acclaim and also conducted the orchestra's gala concert celebrating the 90th anniversary of the Hamburg Music Hall at the beginning of this month. *Michael Ajzenstadt*

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#5	5	4	BEN ARTZI	HAIM MISHAL ATZMI
#6	7	2	ARIEL HOROWITZ	YALLAH BYE
#7	NEW	1	YEHUDA POLIKER	MEUCHAR ULAI MUKDAM
#8	16	7	ETHNIX	BRUCHIM HABAIM LE ISRAEL
#9	NEW	1	HI-FIVE	KULAM ROKDIM ACHSHAV
#10	11	9	MASSIVE ATTACK	MEZZANINE
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Lessons in democracy needed

President Bill Clinton's 10-day trip to China is almost as significant as Richard Nixon's famous visit in 1972. It marks the formal end to the frosty relations that began in Tiananmen Square this month nine years ago. It also gives the world time to assess the result of Clinton's policy of slowly normalizing relations with the giant power of Asia, which began in his first term as president.

Opinion is divided on whether China's "great leap forward" economically has been entirely its own doing, or has been driven by US encouragement. What is more certain is that whatever influence the Clinton administration (which is very popular in Beijing) has had on the government's burgeoning free market policies, it has yielded precious little of substance on the tricky issue of human rights and democracy.

The image of Clinton, whose liberal and democratic values not even his enemies would dispute, standing for the pomp of an official Chinese welcome in Tiananmen Square, for only 10 minutes, was a strangely disturbing one, even for his most ardent friends. It somehow symbolized both the lingering unease over Chinese brutality and the necessity to move international relations forward.

There is also domestic unease in the United States over the way the Chinese forced the agenda on the Americans—setting the ceremony in the square, and moving the visit date from November to June, the anniversary of the massacre of the pro-democracy students. This has given the Beijing government the photo opportunity it has been dreaming of for years, one to hang alongside the one of Chinese soldiers marching into Hong Kong. That is the picture of an American president standing in the square that will always be remembered for red blood, not red carpet.

Clinton certainly spoke out, giving his hosts a sharp human rights lecture, recalling the horrific past of the square, and saying that the Beijing government was wrong to set troops against students nine years ago. It may be a statement of the obvious to some, but it is a statement of the obvious to the rest of the world, but China remains a major stumbling block for this foul crime.

China is a proponent of the theory that originated in Singapore that "Asian values" on such matters as freedom, censorship, crime, and punishment are somehow different from those of Western liberal democracies. Predictably, President Jiang Zemin expounded this again in addressing Clinton, saying that China and the United States have different social systems, ideologies, values, and cultural traditions, therefore some difference of views on "certain issues."

This is nonsense of course—cultural differences are one thing, but justice and truth are universal, as many of China's own great writers of ancient times have written so eloquently (and

whose beliefs, significantly, were banned under decades of Communist dogmatism.)

Beijing does deserve credit for televising nationwide the lively press conference in which both Clinton and Jiang sternly aired their opposing views. However, when Jiang said at the end: "Despite our differences, we still can have very friendly exchanges of views and discussion—and I think that is democracy," it seemed like a mockery of his own people, who have no such freedom of public debate and dissent.

Lively as the exchange was, it seemed to reduce a real clash of ethics opposing murder to a debating society-style exercise in disagreement. And, as several Beijing residents who watched the open debate with the journalists said—it would be nice to see more of this after the American president has gone home.

The visit in general appears big on history-making and symbolism, but small on substance. Clinton's path was eased somewhat by the unanimous decision of the powerful House Ways and Means Committee in Congress to back his decision to renew China's "most favored nation" trade status. This annual ritual, which effectively chooses either to end normal trade with China or retain it, should be abolished—it has become no more than a domestic political football giving Republicans an opportunity to bash the White House for being "soft on Communism." In fact most businessmen, Republican or Democrat, would be horrified if China trade was presented as a gift to Europe by withdrawing MFN.

Nonetheless, a public opinion poll on the visit showed that nearly half of Americans think trade with China should be linked to human rights, against 45 percent who think not. But while 58 percent of Americans approve of Clinton's visit there is marked confusion of China's relations with the United States—one third of Americans apparently consider China a friend and an ally, a third view it as unfriendly or an enemy, and the rest don't know. And public expectations are low, probably correctly, for any results from the trip.

It all inevitably comes back again to human rights, however China tries to dodge the issue. It may be symbolically fine that the two nations are signing a formal agreement not to target one another's cities with nuclear weapons. But what would be really significant for the future of China's relations with the whole world would be an agreement to release the 2,000 people imprisoned on charges of "counter-revolution," many of them since 1989.

It could include other unremarkable provisions, like allowing blacklisted Chinese exiles to go home freely, irrespective of their political or religious views. It would be nice if China agreed that a labor-camp system is not a re-education system in any civilized country. This, and not just friendly banter with a visiting elected president, would be a step towards democracy, Mr. Jiang.

CONTEMPT FOR THE LAW

Sir, - In reference to "When a bottle isn't baby's best friend" (June 21) I would like to clarify the following point: In contrast to what was written "Obviously, breast feeding also prevents nursing bottle cavities" this disease can be caused by excessive and prolonged breast feeding.

The condition described in the article has in the past been called "Nursing Bottle Decay" but has been redefined and is now described more accurately as "Nursing Decay."

Surprisingly, even mother's breast milk can cause severe tooth decay in toddlers who nurse themselves to sleep at the mother's breast or suckle for long periods of time.

The key for prevention is not to nurse for extended periods of time and have your child examined by a certified pediatric dentist by the child's first birthday.

Although this may seem early, the pediatric dentist can make sure that the parents are using the right feeding techniques and also determine if there are any early signs of disease of the child's teeth.

ARI K., DMD MSC,
Pediatric Dentist,
Jerusalem.

Sir, - I am a passionate proponent of amity between Israeli Arabs and Jews: I consider myself fortunate to live in a community in which that amity is well-nigh absolute. It is therefore with great dismay that I read of the attempt by the "Arab leadership" to impose a boycott on products of the settlements over the Green Line.

We have all had enough of boycotts, which have demonstrated more ability to create resentment than to change anyone's policy.

Jerusalem.

Count Bernadotte that this violated the truce.

25 years ago: On June 28, 1973, The Jerusalem Post reported defense minister Moshe Dayan's claim that the Arabs of Palestine had buried the idea of their own political entity when they chose to join the Jordan Hashemite Kingdom after the Partition Resolution of 1947.

Partition Resolution of 1947.

Egypt refused to rescind the ban on food convoys in the Negev, despite the charge by

Alexander Zvielli

ILLER 69

10 tips for Clinton

They say President Clinton is having a tough time deciding how to handle Netanyahu. Here's a few pointers

• Stop pining for Yitzhak Rabin. Clinton's penchant for reminiscing about the late prime minister in every meeting with American Jews or Mideast leaders and in interviews — is honorable and touching, but unhelpful.

Rabin is gone, unfortunately. Accept the fact that Netanyahu was duly elected and will be around, it seems, for quite some time.

Respect our democracy and secure some patience. It takes time to build support for the controversial redeployments demanded by Oslo, and Rabin wouldn't have had an easier time. In fact, just the opposite is true.

With Rabin (or Shimon Peres) at the helm I bet that this second redeployment, not to mention any further withdrawals or concessions — would never go through.

Don't threaten. It's unwise to issue ultimatums when you can't and won't make good on the implied threat. You appear weak when Secretary of State Madeleine Albright talks of "two weeks" for the parties to respond to the latest American proposal, and nothing happens when "deadline" after "deadline" passes without anybody noticing. I know that you want to provoke a sense of urgency in Jerusalem and Gaza, but you're losing credibility with these Potemkin-like warnings of "critical" decision-making dates.

Stay away from the Palestinian state thing. Many important Palestinians think you're hinting that Washington could support, next year, a unilateral declaration of Palestinian statehood. I know that you've never said anything like this, but Hillary's incautious remark on "Palestine" hints at it, and the State Department's subsequent denial was unconvincing. This sends the wrong signal to Yasser Arafat, who may be led into thinking that all he has to do is ride out the year without living up to Oslo commitments. Discourage such thinking.

Drop the alarmist line about the "explosion of violence" that is "certain" to take place if the process

left to wait for the seven-year or 10-year statute of limitations. No wonder there is so much contempt for the law, when a government ministry itself is so lax in its duty to enforce the law.

And the honest, law-abiding citizens who always pay their obligations promptly must feel like fools.

Some of them might even start thinking, "What price honesty and civic ideals?"

FELICE WEINTRAUB
Jerusalem.

In particular, the presently mooted boycott may well turn out to be a two-edged sword. The move is a very foolish one that may cost the Israeli Arab community dearly: I hope that Arab merchants will prove themselves more intelligent than this leadership, and will frustrate the boycott by ignoring it, lest it give rise to an equally regrettable counter boycott and even greater resentment. Nobody needs this.

STAN GOODMAN
Kiryat Tivon.

Alan Dershowitz

Barnicle: "I gotta tell you about Alan Dershowitz. You know he's got a legitimate beef with me. I have, ah, we have tried to contact him. I feel badly about what happened to Alan Dershowitz. I apologize to Alan Dershowitz, but you know Alan's got to get back to us."

Caller: "I see. You haven't written this in your column, have you?"

Barnicle: "I have not written it in a column that has appeared in the paper. I wrote it in a column that has not run in the paper, yuh... You just have to accept my word for it."

The alleged column never ran. Moreover the Globe has further information in its files proving that the Globe concluded after its own investigation that he had fabricated the quote.

I have challenged the Globe to open up its files so that the public can judge for itself. But the Globe insists on suppressing the truth. Even its own ombudsman questioned the truthfulness of Barnicle's quote after learning that the notes he purloined to base it on never existed.

I am confident that if a careful search were conducted of other Barnicle columns, numerous instances comparable to those alleged against Smith would be found.

In at least one other racial story, Barnicle made up false evidence against a young black man and falsely attributed quotes to his mother. The Globe ran a partial correction. But the Globe has refused to conduct a full search, limiting itself to a cursory review of the last two years of Barnicle's columns in an effort to determine whether he made up people rather than whether he put false quotes in the mouths of real people.

Alan Dershowitz

Alan Dershowitz

Alan Dershowitz

Alan Dershowitz

Alan Dershowitz

Alan Dershowitz

DAVID WEINBERG

does not advance. This line of argumentation creates a self-fulfilling prophecy and essentially extends a measure of legitimacy to Palestinian violence if and when it erupts.

Take "reciprocity" seriously. It is at the core of Palestinian credibility in the process. You can't really expect us to ignore the Palestinian Authority's continuing diplomatic aggression at the UN, or the continuing antisemitic and virulently anti-Israel incitement in the Palestinian press.

They say Clinton is having a tough time deciding how to handle Netanyahu. Here's a few pointers

This time, unlike the Hebron Agreement, Netanyahu has a right to "get" from Arafat what we're paying for: tough PA action against Hamas infrastructure, a reduction in the size of the PA "police" forces as per agreement, extradition of terrorists, covenant renunciation, etc.

Stay out of internal Israeli politics. If there's a referendum on the next redeployment, don't do what you did last elections, when Mr. President, and then Assistant Martin Indyk, were perceived as intervening in the race on behalf of Peres.

Clearly, the US has an interest and a right to make clear to the Israeli public its view on the implications of acceptance or rejection of a diplomatic deal — on US-Israel relations, regional stability, etc. But be cognizant of the fine line between explanation and interference, between mediation and interjection.

Demand fuller communication and coordination from Netanyahu. You can't allow yourself to be sandbagged by the prime minister, not on the opening of Hashmoneh Tunnels nor on Jerusalem expansion plans or the like. You also have a right to insist that Netanyahu not embarrass you politically by cozying up to the extreme right-wing American religious fundamentalists who so bitterly have attacked your presidency. And please, try to work together on strategy for final-status negotiations.

Alan Dershowitz

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Decision time

DANIEL BLOCH

July 1998 will be a month of crucial decisions. Political and diplomatic developments during this month will determine the fate of this government and, even more importantly, whether there is still a chance for peace with our neighbors.

Unfortunately the outlook is not very optimistic. It depends in many ways on what goes on in the mind of one man: Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu. Nobody knows for sure what he really wants. I hope he knows, but nobody can be sure about that, either.

Just a few weeks ago, he labeled the idea of a referendum on the second phase of redeployment as a "joke." Suddenly at the beginning of this week, he was all for it.

Then, towards the end of the week, most of the air went out of the "referendum balloon" probably because Aryeh Dori, our real behind-the-scenes leader, was not supporting the gimmick. Now it is clear that the referendum was just another gimmick to stall and gain time.

One can understand the internal political problems Netanyahu faces but they cannot justify ruining the chances for peace. He knows that he has to carry out the redeployment. Most of the improvements he demanded from the Palestinians and from Washington have been achieved. There is no doubt that the majority of the public here supports this second pullback. It has also a clear majority in the Knesset.

Netanyahu knows that he has to carry out the redeployment

The problem lies with the extreme Right, mainly its religious elements, which brought him to power and without which, he believes, he cannot win again. Netanyahu seems to be more frightened of Joseph Gutnik, the NRP's rabbi and some of the extreme right wing of the Likud than of US President Clinton, Secretary of State Madeleine Albright, Yasser Arafat, King Hussein and President Hosni Mubarak. He has already sacrificed his credibility and lost his international and domestic standing to appease these supporters.

Two scenarios haunt him: First, that he would have to form a national unity government. In this government, Labor Party leader Ehud Barak might gain enough popularity to bring him a victory in the next elections.

Second, that he would have to face elections immediately after the approval of the redeployment. In this case, there might be more than just two candidates for prime minister. There could be a candidate from the center — Ronni Milo or Dan Meridor — and another candidate from the Right — Arik Sharon, for instance. David Levy might also throw his hat into the ring. Nobody would get 50% in the first round. And who knows what will happen in the second round.

These may well be Bibi's nightmares. But a real statesman does not succumb to his nightmares or mortgage the long-term security, political and economic interests of his country for his own egotistical political calculations.

Leaders like Roosevelt, Churchill, Truman, Ben-Gurion, Begin or Rabin took bold historic steps without worrying about the next election day. They did not delay crucial decisions because they might damage their chances of re-election.

If Netanyahu does not make the obvious decision now, it is the obligation of his moderate cabinet members to bring about the changes necessary. First and foremost, Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai, must try to force the vote this month. If he cannot, he should join forces with all the moderate members of the coalition and bring about early elections. If he will only lead the way, others will surely follow him, including The Third Way, and enough members of Geshar, the Likud, Yisrael Ba'alya and even Shas.

But Mordechai need not worry: In all likelihood, if Netanyahu senses that Mordechai is really serious this time, he will move forward on the decision himself, because, as noted, he is deathly afraid of early elections.

Time is not on his side, however. He must make up his mind. If not, he will surely wake up one morning and find that all his worst nightmares have come true: He was forced to pass the redeployment, his government was brought down by a no-confidence motion and he did not win the ensuing elections.

(United Feature Syndicate)

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

TODDLERS' TOOTH DECAY

Sir, - In reference to "When a bottle isn't baby's best friend" (June 21) I would like to clarify the following point: In contrast to what was written "Obviously, breast feeding also prevents nursing bottle cavities" this disease can be caused by excessive and prolonged breast feeding.

The condition described in the article has in the past been called "Nursing Bottle Decay" but has been redefined and is now described more accurately as "Nursing Decay."

Surprisingly, even mother's breast milk can cause severe tooth decay in toddlers who nurse themselves to sleep at the mother's breast or suckle for long periods of time.

The key for prevention is not to nurse for extended periods of time and have your child examined by a certified pediatric dentist by the child's first birthday.

Although this may seem early, the pediatric dentist can make sure that the parents are using the right feeding techniques and also determine if there are any early signs of disease of the child's teeth.

ARI K., DMD MSC,
Pediatric Dentist,
Jerusalem.

Count Bernadotte that this violated the truce.

25 years ago: On June 28, 1973, The Jerusalem Post reported defense minister Moshe Dayan's claim that the Arabs of Palestine had buried the idea of their own political entity when they chose to join the Jordan Hashemite Kingdom after the Partition Resolution of 1947.

Partition Resolution of 1947.

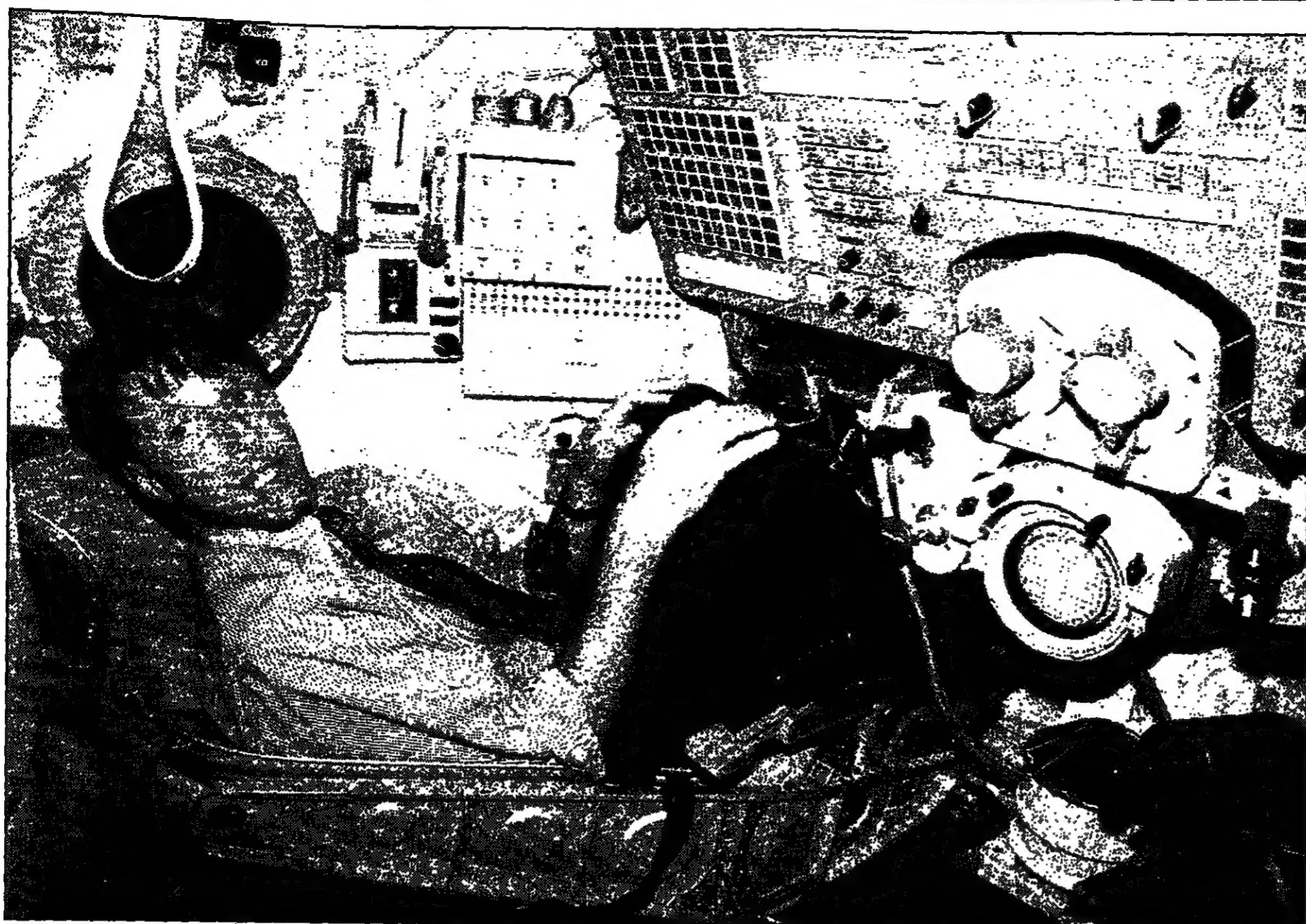
Egypt refused to rescind the ban on food convoys in the Negev, despite the charge by

Alexander Zvielli

Alexander Zvielli

Alexander Zvielli

Alexander Zvielli



Astronaut Michael Foale shows off a Russian Soyuz escape capsule in Houston, Texas: 'As I was passing into the Soyuz, we heard the thump and shake... and the crunch.'

Brush with death among the stars

Astronaut Michael Foale nearly died last year when Russia's Mir space station collided with a cargo ship in one of the worst accidents in space history.

British-born Foale reflects on the hair-raising June 25, 1997, crash with remarkable calm today, recalling how beautiful the stars looked that night and how the accident bonded the crew. "The day emotionally was actually quite exciting for me," 41-year-old Foale said. "In all honesty the collision only strengthened a bond of friendship I had developing with that crew at the time, Sasha Lazutkin and Vassily Tsibilyev."

Foale was on a four-month mission as NASA's astronaut on the flight when captain Tsibilyev tried to dock with a Progress cargo ship. Mission Control wanted Tsibilyev to do the job manually to save the money it would have cost to buy a Ukrainian device needed for automatic docking.

Foale, a US citizen with a distinct British accent, said Tsibilyev was nervous. He had once missed the Progress entirely while trying to dock it with the orbiting space station.

"We had agreed that we were just going to follow procedures and surely the procedures had been worked out by the ground and surely nothing could really go badly wrong," said Foale, an astrophysicist with a doctorate from Cambridge University.

THEY WERE wrong. Using limited tools, Tsibilyev was unable to tell how far away the Progress ship was as it approached Mir, nor could he determine how fast it was moving. When the veteran captain realized a crash was imminent, he ordered Foale to

A year ago, the Mir space station collided with a cargo ship and its crew members nearly died. Astronaut Michael Foale tells Adam Tanner that cost-cutting was probably responsible for what he calls that 'exciting' day

prepare the Soyuz escape capsule for emergency departure.

"As I was passing into the Soyuz, we heard the thump and the shake and it was a pretty big impact to the station. But if you're on a station that collides with something, as long as you're not strapped in, you're not going to feel it," he said.

"As I passed through into the node and I heard the crunch I thought 'is this where the air's all going to come out fast?'"

The oxygen did start rushing out of the Spektr module, which was punctured in the crash. The crew hurried to shut Spektr's hatch, which was blocked by a series of cables.

"My whole mind-set was to be the control of the two Russians, who were much more interested in saving the station than I was, as to when it was really going to be time to go," said Foale. "I was watching Vassily the whole time trying to make sure he wasn't passing out."

They succeeded in closing the hatch with what Foale says was just minutes to spare, but the space station lost all power because they had to unplug cables to the main solar panels.

"After that the whole thing became rather poignant and even beautiful for me," Foale said, describing the silence that spread as the station lost its power in the wake of the crash.

"There are so many more stars visible in space anyway but the

silence just stretched up and out and it was a beautiful sight, the Milky Way, there were kind of meteorites going below us," he continued.

"At some point I said to Vassily, 'This is so beautiful, I'll

'The whole thing became rather poignant and even beautiful for me,' Foale said, describing the silence that spread as the station lost all power in the wake of the crash

always remember this day.' And he said: 'Yes, it is beautiful, but this has been a terrible day.'"

IN THE ensuing hours, Foale used his physics background to help calculate how to point Mir's solar panels toward the sun, using just the engine of the escape capsule - as the station's main boosters were not receiving power.

I was "putting my thumb

against the window looking at stars going past and then working out what my body's orientation was to station... to figure out how to tell Vassily, who was in the Soyuz, which direction to fire the thrusters," he said.

After about 24 hours they had restored some power.

"We still didn't have the toilet working, which is a big bit," Foale said, adding that the plumbing was not working for about 36 hours.

Despite the brush with death, Foale said he has suffered worse experiences.

"I've had worse moments than that day. I've had an engine fail at night when I was at 3,000 feet from Corpus Christi at midnight," he said. "That's a much worse feeling because then you think you might kill someone else because you're going to crash into a house or something."

On Mir, "there were no guilt feelings, there were no horror feelings, only of survival and only for a few minutes at the most."

Foale said Tsibilyev suffered far more. "It's because of the guilt, it's because of what people think he should have done," he said. "I come away from that day looking good. Vassily doesn't think he looks good."

Foale returned to Earth in October, still enthusiastic about the space program. He now serves as deputy director of the

Johnson Space Center and dreams of going to Mars next century.

Mir was more than enough for several of Foale's colleagues to hang up their space helmets for good. Of four Americans who flew on Mir before Foale, three left the astronaut corps soon after.

Mir's Spektr module remains punctured and sealed off from the rest of the station today, although the power lost in the crash has been restored.

For Foale, Russia's main lesson of the crash is the same as the central theme of many ancient Greek epics: Know your limits.

"You see, they tried to solve an economic problem with a technical shortcut," Foale said. "If you have forces, be they economic or political expediency, that progressively work on managers to make decisions that cut small covers progressively in a number of areas, those compromises can add up to a big mistake, and that's what happened that day."

"Trying to do the test without proper training, without proper thought, without enough review. All those things set Vassily up for that day," Foale said.

The lessons suggest it is time for Russia to retire the 12-year-old Mir and concentrate its efforts on the new International Space Station, the first segment of which is due to be launched later this year.

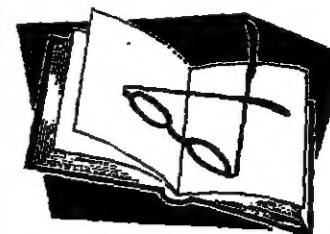
"I believed that it would be a great human loss to have the Mir fall from orbit before my flight," he said. "But having been there, having worked on it, it is an old beat-up car."

(Reuters)

At the Auctions will return next month

Loved to pieces

Book Review



By BILL KEENEY

In life, there are straight-line people who take the shortest path between two points, and non-straight-liners who take a longer, crazier, yet often more interesting tour.

Roy Blount Jr. is definitely the latter, and his memoir, *Be Sweet*, contains funny, touching and sometimes just odd tour stops.

By the way, he also gets to the second point - in his own sweet time.

Blount's points are the question - Why is he funny? - and the answer, an accounting of his life, a mix of Southern upbringing and Northern adulthood stewing in what was usually an unspoken family sadness.

Blount takes the reader many places, from Mississippi to China, and to many events in a varied and accomplished career in which

niscences (besides himself, this being a memoir), is his late mother, Louise, quite clearly the most difficult, troubling and important person in Blount's life.

Her maternal admonition, "Be sweet" (translation: Behave!), provides the title for the story of Blount's life, at least to the age of 55. (Blount, now 56, explains that he must get it all out now, because humorists are known to lose their edge at about his age.)

Louise, known to her son at various times as Sugar, Mumu and Mom, visited elements of her own tormented, orphaned upbringing on Blount by telling him that his birth nearly killed her and that he would forget her when he hit adulthood.

She also was the woman who introduced Blount to the wonder of words and language, and her gift for colorful usage and an angled slant on everyday life have been passed to him as an heirloom.

It makes for a difficult bond, as Blount's talk of hating his Mom - he writes it at one point - is born of the pain that he felt in loving the most influential person in his life.

"My mother loved me to pieces, as she often said, and I'm still trying to put them together,"

Blount's talk of hating his Mom is born of the pain he felt in loving the most influential person in his life

he has written stories, columns, essays, poems (including his favorite, limericks) and books and worked for a variety of leading publications, including *Sports Illustrated* and *The New Yorker*.

Readers familiar with Blount's work won't be surprised that his life story includes musings on what to say when you're using a restaurant bathroom and somebody jiggles the door handle and an accounting of bizarre English translations seen on T-shirts and menus in China.

Some meanderings, such as a "Juniors" chapter about men named for their fathers, go on a tad long, and a fictional letter to his children from heaven seems jammed in.

But most of Blount's side trips are enjoyable. His account of his grandson's first story - "Papa booby bye-bye" - seems like it could be a separable essay, but Blount skillfully weaves the child's line back into the narrative at strategic points. He does the same with other stories, too.

There is plenty of funny stuff here, but not as much laugh-out-loud material as one usually gets from Blount. Truth be told, a goodly amount of familial pain goes into creating a humorist, at least this humorist.

Blount talks lovingly and respectfully of his father, regretting the distance that a lack of communication created during his life.

Blount grew to admire his father more after his death, learning about the man's basic goodness and his legacy as a local humorist in Decatur, Ga.

But the star of Blount's remi-

he writes. Blount has a wry, semi-serious obsession with "the family curse," an affliction that traces back to his mother's beatings at the hands of a cruel stepmother and to his grandfather's syphilitic madness.

The curse and unsatisfying family relationships planted in young Blount the seeds of self-loathing, an undesirable state of mind that nevertheless helped fuel a career in humor.

That self-loathing is the "self-love" in humorist talk according to Blount, one of a number of techniques, including "the straight face, or dead pan" and "a good, solid grounding in despair," that can help a humorist achieve success.

Blount, a twice-married single grandfather, also describes his frustrating, amusing and heart-felt efforts to understand and be understood by women, a lifelong project that will hit home with anyone who has tried to bridge the gender gap.

As usual, Blount rewards the reader with great turns of phrase, describing how his mother kept "strenuous, resentful house."

He revisits shopworn clichés, wondering if "maybe people in the grave like to turn over."

He also refreshingly punctures some of our societal postmortalities. On the very first page, he ridicules the current precious use of the word "storytelling," explaining how it has been mystically transported to a realm of costumes and festivals when, in his youth, it was just another term for lying.

(The Hartford Courant)

Something to smile about

Earthly Concerns



By D'vora Ben Shaul

For the first time ever, planning authorities have ruled against a major project that has already been constructed.

On June 16 the National Planning Commission, Israel's highest planning and zoning authority, ruled that a good part of the Carmel Beach Towers project in Haifa had been illegally built. Permits received from the Haifa Municipal Council had been issued counter to the law, and were therefore null and void.

The company involved, Carmel Beach Towers Ltd., had built massive concrete structures, sea walls and roads, partly inside clearly defined "no-build" zones as defined by law in 1987; all of

which construction inhibited clear passage along the beach in Haifa.

The hearing before the NPC took place in compliance with an order from the Haifa District Court, issued as part of its findings in a two-year struggle between the Israel Union for Environmental Defense on one side and the Carmel Towers Development Co. and the Haifa District Planning Commission on the other.

The court, finding much amiss in the way the permits had been issued, ruled that the National Planning Commission should address the matter.

Although the construction of an apartment hotel on the legal portion of the site will continue, IUED spokesperson Alona Appel called the commission's ruling a milestone in the struggle to save Israel's disappearing coastline. The IUED will now ask the courts for an order to demolish the illegal structures, returning the beach area to its former state.

If this happens, it will be a first in Israel.

For while illegally built private houses have previously been removed by court order, really serious construction of such mas-

sive proportions as described above has usually been left standing, even when its construction clearly violated the law.

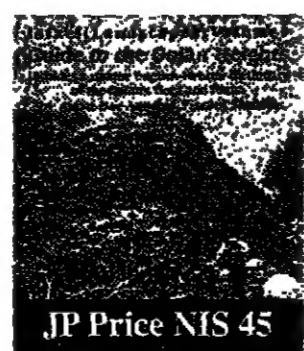
This, apparently, was just what the Haifa District Planning Commission and the building company were counting on - that once the project was up the authorities would come around to some sort of compromise.

This time, however, the expected compromise wasn't even whispered: the ruling on the illegality of the construction was unequivocal.

Although the IUED was initially a lone voice protesting this project, they have since been joined by the Society for the Protection of Nature in Israel and a number of other environmental groups.

All these groups have voiced their concern over a lamentable fact - that beach areas traditionally available to the public are disappearing so rapidly that many people living right on the coast already need to travel almost as far as Jerusalemites to find an accessible beach for recreation.

Readers wanting more detailed information are invited to visit the website at <http://iued.org.il>



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Students learn to take their science seriously

By JUDY SIEGEL-ITZKOVICH

Doing a serious scientific experiment or building a science project while a university staffer supervises may not turn a young Israeli into an Einstein, a Salk or a Curie. But it seems to have sparked thoughts of a career in science, computers or technology in the minds of at least some of the 27 teenage finalists who took part in the Young Scientists' Competition held recently at the Bloomfield Science Museum in Jerusalem.

One of the participants, Eran Elhayek from the Eshel Hanassi School in Beersheba, was awarded first prize by the judges and by Israel's year's university scholarship, along with the privilege of representing Israel at a European Community young scientists' contest in Portugal later this year.

Now serving in the army (working in computers), Elhayek worked on a biological pesticide project under the direction of Dr.

Menachem Berlinger, a researcher at the Agricultural Research Organization's Gilat experimental station near Beersheba.

The two advanced the understanding of parasites that feed on moths that prey on potatoes and other tubers, and which could eventually be used instead of chemicals to kill them.

"Eran helped conduct a survey of natural enemies of the moths, and in the lab he tried to understand the numerous variables," says Berlinger. "This work could definitely lead to something practical; what must now be done is to learn how to augment the performance of the parasites, such as how to get them to lay more eggs and find the best food for them."

The Gilat scientist says that "over the years, a number of high school pupils have come to us to do a science project in lieu of a matriculation exam. But this is the first time that Israeli kids have competed to participate in the European contest."

PROF. NAVA Ben-Zvi, head of the Hebrew University's science teaching institute and board chairman of the Bloomfield Museum, was asked by the European organizers to run the Israeli competition.

The judges of the projects, which were put on display at the museum, included the chief scientist of the Health Ministry and senior professors from most of the country's universities. The competition will be held among high school pupils here on an annual basis.

The finalists included a wide variety of teenagers: Jews, Arabs, new immigrants, girls as well as boys.

Raheli Cohen, a graduate of the Amit religious girls' high school in Beersheba and now a national service volunteer in Beersheba's Magen David Adom station, conducted the most unusual experiment.

She went to a private ostrich ranch at the suggestion of Ben-Gurion University veterinary

expert Prof. Reuven Yagil and collected samples of the birds' tears.

Half a dozen of the feisty creatures, which are raised for meat and feathers, were well mannered and patient when Raheli and helpers placed paper testing strips in their eyes to determine the amount of four types of salts in their tears.

The lachrymose glands of these desert animals produce copious amounts of tears to wash the sand out of their eyes.

The aim of the experiment was to try to find out whether the corneas of ostriches could serve as an unending supply for transplants in humans (instead of the limited supply from human cadavers).

"Ostrich eyes are twice the size of human eyes," Cohen explains, "but we found that morphologically they are quite similar, and the chemical composition of their tears is almost identical to that of man."

"We specifically tested for magnesium, calcium, sodium and potassium levels in ostrich tears and compared them with those in humans. Interestingly, the tears in camels, which are also desert animals, are very different from those of ostriches."

Cohen was "afraid of the birds at first, but soon I got used to them. Since the test is painless, I didn't feel bad about doing it."

Cohen, who intends to do two years of national service at MDA and is considering either medicine or scientific research as a career, said that her work was not extensive enough to find out whether ostrich corneas can be used in human transplantation.

"There are other factors, such as pH (acid or base levels) and whether the human body would reject an ostrich cornea, but I'm sure the research will go ahead."

Even though Cohen didn't win first prize and wasn't one of the five other young scientists who won an honorable mention, she still enthuses about the experience.

"I learned a great deal about research procedures, and being exposed to young people from many backgrounds was very exciting," she says.

OFFER SPRINGER of the Leyad Ha'universita High School in Jerusalem dreamed up the idea of converting an ordinary personal



Gil Greenbaum (left), David Rosenberg (center) and Il'hi Malka discuss their project on safe networks using optic fibers. (Shimi Nachshon)

computer into a scanner of text and photographs.

Using the computer and a standard printer, he was able to do this, although he quickly adds that the idea "does not have any commercial value."

Offer, who won honorable mention, used the computer's voice card to convert analog information to digital data.

"It's a slow scanner, taking three minutes to do a page instead of the shorter time and higher resolution it takes commercial scanners, but the fact that it was possible was the important thing," he says.

Sausan Mahajna, 19, from Umm el-Fahm in the Galilee, is now studying English at Beit Berl College, but she did her science project while at the Hadija High School in her town of 33,000.

"I had noticed that many Umm el-Fahm residents complained about asthma and other respiratory conditions," she explains. "We live about 40 kilometers from the Hadera power plant's chimneys,

and I thought there may be a connection between the two."

Working under the direction of three experts, she decided to investigate.

Mahajna borrowed a mobile pollution monitoring device (paying the insurance out of her own pocket) and installed it in a strategic point to determine the levels of carbon monoxide and other poisonous gases. She also tested wind speeds and direction.

She conducted a random survey of about 100 Umm el-Fahm residents of all ages to collect information on their health.

"Even though I didn't mention the power plant, many of those with respiratory problems raised the Hadera facility by themselves."

To Mahajna's surprise, however, when all the calculations were completed it seemed quite clear that the Hadera chimneys were not the cause of Umm el-Fahm's polluted atmosphere. Instead, she concluded that the town's polluted

air was due to the large number of vehicles in the town itself.

"I do hope that the city fathers will do something about this," she declares.

Being in the competition was "a tremendous experience, as was meeting Israelis from all parts of the country and touring Jerusalem."

And since Mahajna is a strong opponent of chemicals, "Eran's idea of biological pesticides really excited me. He deserved first prize for that."

Other finalist projects included the building of a robot from Lego pieces, the cleaning of sewage using ash from the Hadera power station, the effects of diabetes on bone-growth centers in mice, the behavior of rats in Jerusalem pine forests and a system for detecting suspicious objects using microprocessors.

Maybe someday, some of these projects will be written up in science journals and put on the assembly line.



Hagit Wurzburg and museum guide Yuval Dachs in front of her project on diabetic mice. (Shimi Nachshon)

Eucalyptus helps save the land of milk and honey



By Judy Siegel-Itzkovich

Plant eucalyptus trees and prevent unused land from losing its fertility. This is the advice of the Volcani Institute for Agricultural Research at Beit Dagan, which has concluded four years of successful work on the use of eucalyptus for protecting soil and ensuring proper drainage.

The study was initiated with help from the Jewish National Fund after experts noted a serious deterioration in the soil of the Jezreel Valley.

An estimated 110,000 dunams around the country are at risk, becoming saline and suffering damage to the soil structure as a result of shallow underground water.

Eucalyptus trees are known to be highly resistant to salty water, and their roots are good at drain-

ing the area. During the past two years, 500 dunams of the hardy trees have been planted, and Dr. Yehiel Zohar, head of the Volcani project, says "there is no alternative for land that has left the cycle of agricultural production."

Eucalyptus trees can have other by-products: the wood can be used to produce MDF, which, with resins, is turned into low-cost furniture. MDF planks produced from eucalyptus wood have been found to be twice as strong as the European standard demands.

An MDF factory at the Golan Junction will accept 100,000 cubic meters of wood per year. Eucalyptus flowers can feed honeybees who have been out of house and home by the reduced rural land.

The lack of flowers for bees has caused a shortage of honey, and imports supplement local supplies.

Volcani scientists say that certain strains of mini-eucalyptus trees can supply 60 kilos of honey per dunam.

In addition, eucalyptus groves can serve as recreation areas, sawdust and a source for decorative branches and leaves.

But the main consideration, says Zohar, are the benefits of the tree

to soil preservation and protection of the soil from over-salinity.

BEEPING PHONES

Cellcom is giving its subscribers the option of turning their cellular phones into beepers to receive written messages on the digital screen. For NIS 10 a month (plus VAT) and a call to *666 on Cellcom or 053-999-666, subscribers can get written messages, such as "call home," "call the office," "the meeting is cancelled" or "call telephone number..."

Organizations can use the system to send messages simultaneously to many staffers with Cellcom phones.

When a caller reaches the subscriber's voice mailbox, he can choose any of seven preset messages, adding a phone number if he wishes. As an introductory offer, it costs the caller a Cellcom call unit or a Bezeq phone unit, depending on where he's calling from.

Cellcom's MailPush system also enables subscribers to see on their telephone's screen pre-selected e-mail messages sent them via the Internet.

To join, dial *123 on Cellcom or go into the Web site at www.mailpush.com.



Eucalyptus trees are known to be highly resistant to salty water, and their roots are good for soil drainage.

Robots as museum tour guides...?

By ANN WATZMAN

PITTSBURGH — Robots and dinosaurs are an odd mix of the most advanced technology with prehistoric life from hundreds of millions of years ago. But researchers at Carnegie Mellon University have brought the two together by creating an autonomous mobile robot to serve as a tour guide in the Pittsburgh's Carnegie Museum of Natural History.

It will be the first time a robot is deployed permanently on the floor of a US museum to interact with visitors. The new tour experience is the result of the work of museum staffers, the university and RedZone Robotics, Inc.

Based on navigation technology developed at Carnegie Mellon, the robot is integrated into the museum environment by providing multimedia displays and docking hardware. It is temporarily called "Sage," but its official name will be chosen in a contest. The apparatus has a dome-shaped head and an ostrich-like neck set on top of a cylinder-shaped body that moves on wheels.

Sage has the ability to detect and respond to the presence of people and lead them on a 15-minute tour of the world-famous Dinosaur Hall using video and other information on demand in a multimedia format.

The tour will focus on specimens featured in the hall, including an *Apatosaurus*, *Tyrannosaurus rex* and ancient marine reptiles. Sage also can discuss theories on extinction and why some dinosaurs are so large.

Sage "is unique in its ability to function in a public environment without any human guidance," said Ilah Nourbakhsh, assistant professor of robotics at Carnegie Mellon and lead engineer on the Sage project. "Over time, this machine will learn to respond to people in a more sophisticated way."

"The development of human qualities, such as personality, is uncharted territory in robotics. Sage is part of an initiative to augment the experience people have in museums," explained Robotics Institute principal investigator William Whitaker.

"It will bring the dynamic, interactive environment fostered in science centers into museums, which have collected the wonders of the Earth but whose visitors are now limited to 'look but don't touch' passive experiences."

Whitaker said that in the past decade alone much has been learned about the evolution and

demise of the dinosaurs, but the experience of museum visitors has remained the same as it has been for more than a century.

The Sage robot consists of a standard platform, a product of Nomadic Technologies in Mountain View, California, which has been customized and given capabilities to navigate safely, act autonomously, avoid obstacles and thank people when they get out of its way. It can also navigate with enough accuracy to plug itself into a dock and recharge its batteries.

A multimedia system installed inside the robot plays clips of a movie developed by the museum's exhibits and education departments.

Sage will lead tours by stopping at various exhibits controlled by the navigation system. When it stops, and visitors press the correct button, it will play an appropriate movie clip accompanied by sound. When visitors press a button under the video display, it will also give closed captions on the movie screen so that those who are hearing impaired can enjoy the tour as well.

Initially, Sage will have a set dialogue. Speech recognition capabilities will be added at a later date, along with the ability to trigger projections on visual displays in the hall and interact with a new computer-controlled lighting system the museum is installing.

Other planned upgrades will allow Web browsers to interact with Sage and show behind-the-scenes activities at the museum.

RedZone plans to continue its technology development through the summer, leading to a second-generation robot that will debut at the museum in the fall. The company plans to advance the navigation system and develop the first pieces of interactive capabilities.

"Nearly a century ago, steel magnate Andrew Carnegie pioneered in excavating and displaying dinosaurs at the Carnegie Museum of Natural History, which he founded," said museum director Jay Apt. "Once again, the museum is reaffirming its scientific leadership role by using the best of today's interactive technologies to bring these amazing creatures and their continually unfolding stories to the public. This type of robotics technology is a cutting-edge exhibit technique we are proud to debut."

The Carnegie Museum of Natural History's Dinosaur Hall collection contains approximately 500 specimens and is the third largest in the world. (Carnegie Mellon University News Service)

The \$2,399 kids' computer — it's juice-proof!

By PAUL FARH and FRANK SWOBODA

IBM and toy maker Little Tikes Company have seen the future of computing — and it may be children as young as three years old. The two companies have teamed up to offer a standard PC molded into a child-sized purple-and-yellow plastic desk. In addition to age-appropriate software titles such as *Millie's Math House*, the \$2,399 system comes with a keyboard that can withstand apple-juice spills.

The introduction of the Young Explorer — apparently the first computer aimed at the Barney set — comes as the scientific community is just starting to study the long-term health effects on children who use computer keyboards from early ages. [Israel's *Comfy* company, which is reportedly in financial trouble, was the first to invent a keyboard for children that's attached to a regular computer, but it has special keys to operate only *Comfy* software and can't be used like a regular computer keyboard.]

Daryl Alexander of the American Federation of Teachers said there is growing concern about the possible physical harm to children in using keyboards, particularly repetitive stress injuries, but added that most of the injury information so far is anecdotal. "Our concern is that kids are in a vast

experiment," Alexander said. And unless there are major changes in technology, such as voice-activated computers, she said, "we're potentially setting them up for repetitive motion injuries."

IBM spokeswoman Stacy Pena said the system was designed with children in mind. The keyboard is at a child's level, minimizing arm strain. She noted also that most young children don't use a keyboard anyway, preferring to click with a mouse. IBM said it hopes to sell the product to day-care centers and preschools, as well as kindergarten classrooms, museums, libraries and cruise ships.

"We see a real market opportunity for this anywhere kids go to have fun and play," said Michele Riggs, the IBM executive who dreamed up the product after watching her son play with computers at his preschool two years ago. By targeting three- to seven-year-old children, IBM could foster brand-name loyalty at the earliest possible age, potentially creating a lifelong customer base. The product also takes aim at Apple Computer's supremacy in the US education market. Apple dominates the market for school computers, with 51 percent of all the computers in primary and secondary schools.

The two companies behind the Young Explorer say it is both child and teacher friendly. For example, all of the computer's

wiring is hidden in a lockable box in the rear of the computer. All of the computer's delicate parts are shielded from users, and the system is built to withstand the inevitable jarring and shoving of a group setting. Software is pre-installed, enabling a user to start up programs themselves with a mouse click.

"Teachers aren't computer experts, they're experts in kids, so we've taken the computer problem off their hands," said Laura Musarra, director of marketing for Little Tikes, which is owned by Rubbermaid Corp. The companies plan to market the system directly to schools and day-care centers, but may someday offer it through retail stores as well.

Experts in early childhood education say that computers are a welcome addition to a classroom but shouldn't replace more basic tools. The National Association for the Education of Young Children points out in a policy statement on technology that computers should come after acquiring "highly valued early childhood activities and materials, such as art, blocks, sand, water, books, exploration with writing materials, and dramatic play." There's also some question about whether day-care centers can afford the \$2,399 price.

"The one primary overriding customer requirement in the education market is price," said John Santoro, a spokesman for Apple's

education division. "Schools are not flush with money, and school boards and administrators all say their kids need equal time in front of the computer. That means you need more computers to give everyone equal access."

One of the few researchers to look at repetitive stress in children is Alan Hedges of Cornell University, whose studies showed that kids as young as sixth graders can suffer from the same problems as adults when they become involved with computers. Hedges said there were indications that the age of people getting repetitive stress injuries was getting younger, but added he had no scientific proof. Neither of the federal government's two expert agencies on workplace injuries — the National Institute of Occupational Safety and Health and the Labor Department's Occupational Safety and Health Administration — has conducted any research in the specific area of children using computers.

But as a practical matter, Hedges said the biggest problem was that the workstations his students worked on were ergonomically wrong and could easily lead to injury. He said just recently at Cornell, an informal check of eight graduate students using computers showed six had developed repetitive stress problems. (The Washington Post)

A handy tool for 're-arming' the disabled

By JUDY SEGEL-ITZKOVICH

It would be a miracle if Christopher Reeve — the Superman actor who fell off his horse and in a moment became a quadriplegic — were to walk again. But an Israeli device called NESS (the Hebrew word for miracle, and an acronym for "neuromuscular electrical stimulation system") Handmaster could reduce the spasticity and strengthen the muscles in his arms.

Less-disabled people, after suffering a stroke, head injuries, cerebral palsy or multiple sclerosis, could even regain some of their arms' muscular function by using NESS devices regularly, according to local and foreign experts. Shmuel Shany, managing director of the Ra'anana company, says that the \$2,100 portable device has already received approval from the US Food and Drug Administration and marketing there will begin soon.

"We have contacts with people close to Reeve, and we expect that he will use it. Multi-center clinical trials on the Handmaster are being conducted with the US Veterans Administration and in various European countries, in addition to locally at the Beit Loewenstein rehabilitation hospital, as well as Sheba, Beit Rivka and Fleiman Hospitals."

The device, which painlessly provides rapid-fire bolts of electrical stimulation to muscles in the arm, was invented by Prof. Roger Nathan of Ben-Gurion University's mechanical engineering department. "The fact that muscles can be stimulated electrically has been known for a 100 years," says Shany.

"In rehabilitation, there are no miracles. It takes a lot of hard work. But the Handmaster is the first mobile device that can give such stimulation to the arm without electrodes. Until now, in the US, people underwent operations to implant electrodes that cost \$60,000. Our technique is just as effective, but completely non-invasive."

He estimates that there are "tens of thousands of Israelis who can benefit from the technology, even if they suffered neurological damage many years ago." Shany said that more effort is being made to make physicians, physiotherapists, rehabilitation experts and occupational therapists aware of the device, and the word is spreading among those in the Israel Defense Forces who deal with disabled veterans as well.

The company, which has 22 staffers, is in the process of developing a NESS device for the shoulder, and only later will one be produced for the legs. The more often the device is worn and operated, the better it works, he says.

Electrical stimulation causes the nerves to fire and the muscles to contract, thereby strengthening them. This improves the blood circulation and reduces spasticity. If there is some nerve function, the device may even help the disabled person grasp and release objects.

The split-like device switches the electrical stimulation among five electrodes in the device, giving the user the option of 10 degrees of strength. The power is supplied by rechargeable batteries, with the power unit able to be worn on the belt.

Prof. Gad Alon, an Israeli-born expert in physical therapy at the University Maryland's School of

Medicine, was recently here to advise the NESS company. A graduate of the Wingate Institute for Physical Education, Alon is the author of an electrotherapy textbook and a renowned expert on clinical electrotherapy. He was introduced to the Handmaster during a visit here three years ago.

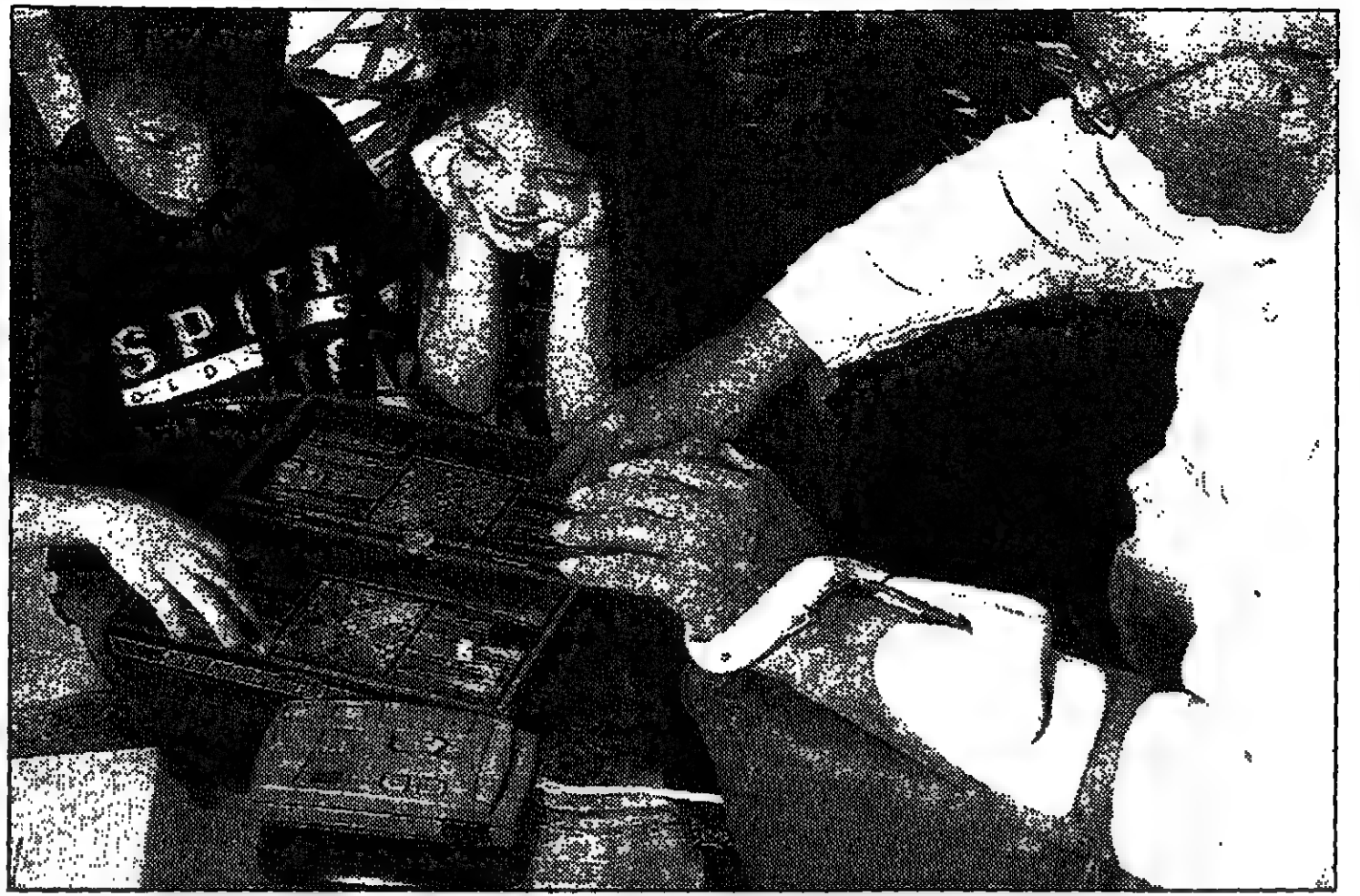
"I was very interested, because we had difficulty applying electrical stimulation on limbs when patients were at home. The device can be used after training with an occupational or physical therapist," he said.

If both hands are affected by damage to the central nervous system, the device can be used on both, one after another. The electrical stimulation causes a feeling of tingling, but not pain, with 20 to 30 pulses per second.

The muscles contract and then relax, and the benefits are obvious when it's used every day for six to eight hours, Alon said. "Patients should start with five minutes a day and build up gradually. Swelling of the muscles is reduced very quickly. Once the patient is fitted, he has to be refitted once in six to eight weeks, but if he's responding well, the consultation can even be done over the phone."

"I did a study that included a patient who had had a stroke more than four years before, but the Handmaster helped him. Obviously, starting to work with it immediately after the neurological injury — even while the person is still in the hospital — produces the most benefit. Atrophy of unused muscles can begin very soon after the injury."

The most important thing determining the Handmaster's success is how much the patient uses it.



The device painlessly provides rapid-fire bolts of electrical stimulation to muscles in the arm, enabling the user to regain some of his muscular function — and get more enjoyment out of life.

"Some people expect too much, and when it doesn't achieve all they hoped, they drop out. Proper guidance will help them know

what to expect," Alon added. As for Christopher Reeve, Alon says that his horrendous injury and publicity about how he has coped

with it have greatly increased public awareness of neurological damage. Will he ever walk again? Alon says that laboratory studies have

shown regeneration of spinal cords is possible in rats. "But in humans? We don't know. Maybe there will be progress in the next decade."

Sunscreens aren't chemical suits of armor

By SALLY SQUARIS

The scene is repeated at beaches and pools every summer: People slather on sunscreen, recline on lounge chairs and bask for hours, mistakenly thinking they are fully protected from the ravages of the sun.

"Sunscreens are not chemical suits of armor," said Stephen Ullrich, an immunologist at M.D. Anderson Cancer Center in Houston. "People think, 'Wow! I can put on SPF 15 and stay out for hours.' I wish that it worked that way."

There's no question that sunscreens defend against sunburn, the condition that has long been linked to an increased risk of skin cancer. But the use of sunscreens, one of the cornerstones of the campaign to prevent skin cancer, is only part of a comprehensive public-health strategy.

Sunscreens are designed to be used in conjunction with hats, protective clothing, sunglasses, and sufficient common sense to avoid the sun during the peak hours of 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. when rays are strongest.

"Sunscreens are in no way meant to supplant other forms of sun protection, it's really meant to complement it," according to Allan Halpern, chief of the dermatology section at New York's Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center in New York.

That message is even more urgent today as scientists debate whether sunscreens can protect against the deadliest of skin cancers, malignant melanoma. The disease, which spreads quickly throughout the body, is the one of the most common forms of cancer among people 25 to 29 years old. There's growing controversy about whether sunscreens go beyond sunburn protection and guard against skin cancer, including melanoma.

Earlier this year, Memorial Sloan-Kettering epidemiologist Marianna Berwick suggested at a meeting of the American Association for the Advancement of Science that sunscreens offered little protection against melanoma.

"This doesn't mean that people should not wear sunscreen. They should indeed wear it to prevent sunburn, but they should not rely on it to prevent melanoma," she declared.

There is confusion about sunscreen use. Many people believe they need it only if they stay out in the sun for long periods, but in fact, shorter exposure also requires it. People with dark skin may think they



She's having fun in the sun — but by letting her on the beach without a hat, protective clothing or sunglasses her parents are exposing her to the risk of cancer.

(Gideon Markovitz)

don't need it, but the latest federal recommendations suggest that everyone, no matter what their skin type, use sunscreen as well as other protection against the sun.

The bottom line is that most people fail to use enough. "You need to have a lot on," said Ullrich. "You need to put it on

pretty thick. ... If you're not going through two to three bottles of sunscreen during a week or two at the beach, you're not putting on enough."

People who complain that they used sunscreen and still got burned by the sun have either not applied enough sunscreen or have not reapplied it liberally every

hour while being in the sun.

"I tell my patients," Halpern said, "that wearing a sunscreen with a sun protection factor (SPF) of 15 or above is not a license to go out there and sop up as much of the sun as they want."

Studies show it is cumulative sun exposure, not simply sunburn, that damages skin and sets the stage for skin cancer.

Spending time in the sun also causes premature aging of the skin, destroys elasticity and contributes to the development of wrinkles and "so-called" sun spots. "Additional scientific evidence suggests that cumulative sun exposure harms the skin in other significant ways."

At M.D. Anderson, Ullrich and his colleagues have found that UV radiation causes genetic mutations in the P53 gene found in skin cells. These damaged cells divide, carrying their genetic errors with them into succeeding generations of cells. This is the first step in initiating skin cancer.

Sunlight also temporarily depresses the immune system, increasing vulnerability to infection and decreasing the body's ability to remove newly formed tumor cells. The good news is that sunscreens — as well as other protective measures against the sun — "clearly prevent the P53 mutations," Ullrich said.

As additional evidence, Ullrich and others point to the experience in Australia, where the blistering sun has produced high rates of skin cancer and numerous cases of deadly malignant melanoma among the fair-skinned population. In a major public health campaign, government officials "Down Under" have long advised the public to "slip on a shirt, slap on a hat and stop on some sunscreen."

At beaches and pools in Australia, sunscreens are sold in vending machines the way that candy and sodas are marketed in the US.

Outdoor events are scheduled before or after the peak sun hours. People routinely wear long-sleeved shirts and pants to protect their skin. Trees are planted on playgrounds to provide shade, and school pupils who forget their mandatory hats, sunglasses and sunscreen must stay indoors rather than going outside to play at recess.

This major public health effort has begun to pay off. In recent years, skin-cancer rates in Australia leveled off and have begun to decrease slightly. "They've been pushing sunscreens and protective clothing and not going out in the worst part of the day, and it's working," Ullrich said. (The Washington Post)

Danger: Diesel fumes can cause cancer

By MARLA COLE

SAN FRANCISCO — Diesel fuel is the lifeblood of commerce, a cheap form of energy powering heavy trucks as well as buses, cars, trains, ships, industrial generators and construction and farm equipment. But now, after nearly a decade of debate, a California panel of scientists has decided that diesel exhaust poses a serious cancer danger and urged state environmental officials to take steps to protect public health.

The implications of the long-awaited decision are great, not only in terms of people's health, but also their economy. State environmental officials must wrestle with how to reduce the hazards posed by diesel-powered vehicles, which are so commonplace that they transport virtually every product that Californians consume. How to handle diesel pollution is thus among the biggest issues facing the California Air Resources Board, which must start deciding this summer how to respond to the scientists' recommendation.

The scientists estimated that diesel exhaust could be killing 15,000 Californians; over a lifetime, exposure to diesel pollution will cause 450 lung cancers among every one million people exposed.

Residents of the Los Angeles basin are breathing the worst diesel fumes in the state, about 60 percent more than the average level the scientists used to estimate the cancer risk.

John Froines, a toxicologist at the University of California at Los Angeles who chairs the group of nine scientists, called the decision the "most important" public health issue the scientific panel has addressed since it was formed by the state legislature 15 years ago.

"If you believe these risk numbers at all, diesel has a significant impact on the health of Californians," Froines said. "This exhaust is without a doubt the most toxic set of constituents that you could ever find."

Diesel exhaust is a brew of

thousands of gases and particles, including more than 40 compounds including benzene, dioxins and formaldehyde — that have already been declared carcinogenic. But the economic implications of protecting the public against diesel pollution are also great. California industries fear that the recommendation could be the first step toward elimination of diesel engines.

Air board officials say they have no intention of banning diesel.

But they may consider tighter standards that would force more engine modifications and encourage the use of natural gas and other alternatives. They also have the option of deciding that existing measures already do enough to safeguard the public.

The state scientific review panel's unanimous decision was a major defeat for the trucking industry and the California Chamber of Commerce, which orchestrated a high-profile campaign to keep diesel off the state's list of cancer-causing air pollutants. Alan Zaremberg, president of the California Chamber of Commerce, called diesel "the backbone of our nation's transportation infrastructure and our economy."

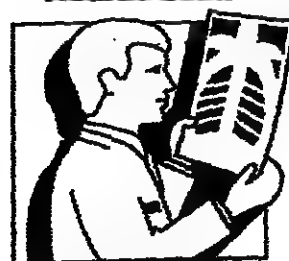
But the scientists said more than 30 human health studies provide strong support for concluding that diesel causes lung cancer. The studies showed railroad crews and other workers regularly exposed to the fumes suffered a 40 percent average increase in lung cancer, the panel concluded. Also, in laboratory tests, the exhaust caused gene mutations, cell damage and lung tumors.

Among scientists the debate focuses not on whether diesel exhaust causes cancer — most agree that it probably does — but on how big a threat it poses to the general population.

In addition to lung cancer, health studies show that workers exposed to diesel exhaust can suffer as a result from allergies, asthma, loss of lung function and bronchitis. (The Los Angeles Times)

For Beduin women, health education begins at home

Health Scan



By Post Health Reporter

Beduin women will get up-to-date family health information in a language they can understand and an acceptable form from more educated women in their community in an innovative program initiated by Ben-Gurion University of the Negev.

Data collected in the past have shown that there is much need for informal health education for Beduin women, who are largely responsible for the care of their large broods.

Dr. Ilana Shoham-Vardi of the epidemiology department of BGU's medical school is coordinating the project, along with Yitzhak Alatuma of the Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs, with funding from the Science and Health Ministries.

Eighteen better-educated Beduin women are taking part in a 13-session course being held at the medical school.

They are learning about prenatal care, early diagnosis of fetal defects, women's health, child nutrition, prevention of diarrhea, its treatment and avoidance of

home accidents. When the course is completed the group leaders will hold weekly meetings on these topics with women in their area.

The groups formed will take into consideration the tribal and familial affiliation of the women. After these learning sessions are concluded, Arabic-speaking teams will assess progress in the women's understanding of health matters.

BGU says it expects the program will improve public health in the Beduin community and raise the self-image of the women.

TYPHOID SOUVENIR FROM INDIA

A young Haifa couple were diagnosed recently at Bnai Zion Hospital with typhoid fever after

returning from a visit to India. Dr. Yisrael Potasman, head of the infectious diseases unit at the hospital, says that in the past year, his unit diagnosed typhoid in four people who spent time in India — even though there is a vaccine against it. Potasman said the vaccine protects only 70 to 80 percent of those immunized, and that more research is needed to increase its effectiveness. The symptoms include high fever (between 39 and 40°C), weakness and a more invasive salmonella bacterium than the ordinary.

WOLFSON AIDS CHINESE

A six-member medical team from Holon's Wolfson Hospital have returned from a trip to Lanzhou in the province of Gansu in western China where

they performed surgery on two adults and two children, including a 10-month-old baby who was the youngest cardiac patient ever operated on in the area. The team, which included two cardiac surgeons, a cardiologist, an anesthesiologist, a head nursing instructor and a perfusionist, held consultations with local cardiologists and heart surgeons and evaluated a number of patients. They also lectured for six hours to city-wide medical audiences.

Dr. Amram Cohen, chief of cardiovascular surgery at Wolfson and founder of Save a Child, a voluntary organization aimed at giving cardiac care to children in developing countries, said they were very well received at the First Affiliated Hospital of Lanzhou Medical College.

The mission was organized by MATAT (which promotes the export of Israeli experts) and Save A Child.

There are plans to bring Chinese medical personnel to train at Wolfson, and a second trip to Lanzhou is being planned by a joint American-Israeli team, who will operate on 20 patients. The ultimate goal, said Cohen, "is to improve and expand the Lanzhou hospital to better serve their population."

OVARIAN CANCER TRIALS

The Sharet Institute for Oncology and the gynecological oncology unit at Hadassah-University Hospital in Jerusalem's Ein Kerem are the first in the country to get Health Ministry approval for participating in inter-

national clinical trials for new chemotherapy drugs against ovarian cancer. Most patients undergo surgery and get chemotherapy with platinum compounds and taxol, but the disease recurs in 70 percent of them.

In the Hadassah trials, patients will get either of two new drugs, Topotecan and Caelyx. Women who didn't respond well to the first line of drugs will be put onto this regimen as a second treatment.

Since it's a double-blind, controlled study, women will draw lots to decide which of the two active drugs they will get. According to Dr. David Edelman, a senior oncologist who heads the Hadassah study, foreign studies on the two new drugs so far show good results.

O'Neill gives Game 1 of Subway Series to Yankees

NEW YORK (Reuters) - The New York Yankees cracked open the first game of this year's Subway Series as soon as the Mets went to their bullpen Friday. Paul O'Neill hit the first pitch from reliever Mel Rojas for the go-ahead three-run homer in the Yankees' 8-4 win over the Mets at Shea Stadium.

In the seventh, Mets starter and ex-Yankee Al Leiter (9-4) strained his left knee trying to cover first and had to leave. Rojas came on with Chuck Knoblauch and Derek Jeter on base. Rojas, who has allowed six of 12 inherited runners to score, gave up O'Neill's 10th homer on the first pitch.

"That was a splitter," said Rojas. "I know I have the stuff to get him out. But today that pitch stayed in the zone and the one pitch cost us the game."

"I don't think there's any other choice," said Mets manager Bobby Valentine about bringing on Rojas. "He's been getting left-handers out better than anyone in the bullpen."

O'Neill is 9-for-20 with three homers and eight RBI in his last five games.

Leiter, the major-league earned run average leader, saw his six-game winning streak snapped. "They have a lineup that keeps coming at you," said Leiter.

Irabu, the American League ERA leader, allowed four runs and six hits in 5.3 innings. He walked three, struck out five and saw his ERA rise to 2.47 on the season.

Rangers 7, Giants 3

Major league RBI leader Juan Gonzalez and Will Clark hit back-to-back homers during a four-run seventh inning as red-hot Texas won on the road.

Gonzalez, who belted his 24th homer off Orel Hershiser (6-6), has 96 RBI in 79 games and is on pace to drive in 205.

Blue Jays 6, Braves 4

Par Hentgen (9-4) threw 6 1/2 innings and Jose Canseco and Carlos Delgado each hit two-run homers to lift visiting Toronto to

its sixth straight victory. Randy Myers pitched the ninth for his 22nd save.

Red Sox 6, Marlins 1

Pedro Martinez earned his 10th win of the season, allowing one run and five hits over eight innings, and Boston scored twice on wild pitches and single runs on an error and infield single to notch a road win.

Martinez (10-2) faced the minimum through three innings and retired nine of the last 11 batters he faced in winning his fourth straight start. He walked one and struck out six.

Last year's NL Cy Young Award winner, Martinez has a 1.17 ERA in his last three games.

Rockies 12, Athletics 6

Colorado produced 19 hits en route to their fifth straight home win.

John Vander Wal and Todd Helton belted two-run homers, while Neftali Perez and Jeff Reed hit solo shots for the Rockies.

Expos 9, Orioles 4

Visiting Baltimore lost its fourth straight. Rondell White had four hits, including a three-run homer, and drove in a season-high four runs for the Expos, who snapped a four-game losing streak.

Phillies 7, Devil Rays 0

Tyler Green and two relievers combined on a three-hitter and Rico Brogna had three extra-base hits and three RBI to power streaking Philadelphia to a home win.

Green (6-4) walked four and struck out four en route to his third straight win. Yorkis Perez and Jerry Spradlin each tossed a perfect inning of relief for the Phillies' 10th win in 13 games.

Padres 6, Angels 3

Kevin Brown (9-3) worked seven innings for his sixth straight win while Ken Caminiti and Greg Vaughn drove in two runs apiece to lead San Diego to a home win.

Diamondbacks 13, Mariners 8

Devon White hit a grand slam and a solo homer and rookie Travis Lee homered twice and drove in four runs for host Arizona. Arizona won despite Ken

Griffey's 31st home run.

Thursday

Sosa breaks record

Sammy Sosa broke the major league record for homers in a month, but it was Tony Clark's three-run homer in the seventh inning that made the difference when the Detroit Tigers beat the Chicago Cubs 6-4.

Sosa hit his 32nd homer leading off the seventh inning. It was his 19th homer in June, breaking the major league mark of 18 set by Detroit's Rudy York in August 1937.

In other action, Mark McGwire hit his 35th homer, but the Indians got two homers from Jim Thome to beat the St. Louis Cardinals 8-2.

Friday's World Cup matches

LENS (Reuters) - England's 2-0 win over Colombia on Friday has given them the chance to avenge their "Hand of God" defeat to Argentina in the 1986 World Cup, one of the most painful defeats in their soccer history.

England won on goals by Darren Anderton and David Beckham. England coach Glenn Hoddle was especially looking forward to facing Argentina in the second round in St Etienne next Tuesday as he played in that World Cup quarter-final in Mexico City when Diego Maradona scored both goals in Argentina's 2-1 win.

The first was the infamous "Hand of God" goal in which Maradona punched the ball home over the head of England goalkeeper Peter Shilton. The second was one of the best goals ever scored in the tournament's history - a move that started when Maradona jinked past Hoddle in the center-circle and ended with him rounding Shilton to score with a trail of England defenders in his wake.

"I played in that game, I remember it all very well," said Hoddle, moments after his much-improved team had clinched their place in the second round. "I always wanted Argentina in the second round, and not just because of my personal reasons, but because I think we do better against the bigger teams."

It helps us raise our game and I am really looking forward to playing them."

Most of the England players, with the exception of 18-year-old Michael Owen who admits to remembering nothing even of the 1990 World Cup, said they had clear memories of that defeat and were eagerly awaiting the tie.

Midfielder Paul Ince was one. "Argentina have proved by their

performances in the first three matches that they are one of the favorites to win the World Cup but in a one-off knockout match, anything can happen. We are totally confident, we played very well tonight, and there is no reason why we should lose to Argentina. I remember the Hand of God goal very well - but I can't repeat what I said when it was scored."

Ince was also extremely unhappy about a more immediate painful memory - a crushing tackle from behind by Colombian Harold Lozano which left him with a gashed shin and searing pain in his already fragile ankle. "I was incensed by it. We've been talking for three months about sacking from behind, he does it right in front of the referee and doesn't get sent off."

Hamilton Ricard, who plays in England with Middlesbrough and came on as a second-half substitute was full of praise for England afterwards. "I know they were criticized for losing to Romania,

but they showed tonight they are a very good team, while we did not play so well," he said. "I have heard that (Argentinians) Gabriel Batistuta and Ariel Ortega might also be moving to England after the World Cup so they will get quite an education on Tuesday."

Romania 1, Tunisia 1

Romania narrowly avoided the curse of the complacent. Anghel Iordanescu wasn't about to remove his baseball cap, but his embarrassment was there for all to see. The Romanian coach had been shaved by his team for a bet, but the bet almost backfired as his team narrowly avoided succumbing to the curse of the complacent that had already tripped up Brazil and Nigeria at the World Cup.

Needing only a draw against supposed no-hopers Tunisia to finish top of Group G and avoid Argentina in the next round, the coach made five changes to the side that had beaten England 2-1.

When his players took the field with their hair dyed bright nation-

al-flag yellow - their half of the bet - they hardly gave the impression that they expected Tunisia to spoil their party. But the North Africans decided red faces were more the order of the day and produced a dazzling first-half display that sliced the Romanian defense to shreds and deserved more than the single goal it yielded.

Although Tunisia had failed to score in defeats against England and Colombia, winger Mehdi Ben Slimane and striker Adel Sellimi had the confidence to run at - and through - the defense time and again. It was hardly a surprise when Christian Dulca failed to match Sellimi for pace and felled him in the area. Skander Souayah stroked home the kick.

But Romania knew that victory would mean playing Croatia next rather than Argentina.

Almost inevitably, they combined to equalize 18 minutes from time and save themselves the blushes that would have matched their kit almost as well as their yellow hair.

Argentina 1, Japan 1

The Reggae Boyz finally sparked the long-awaited party on Friday by clinching their first World Cup victory.

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Pineda's goal puts Argentina on top; Reggae Boyz beat Japan

BORDEAUX (Reuters) - A first-half goal from midfielder Hector Pineda gave Argentina a 1-0 win over Croatia on Friday, maintaining the South Americans' 100 percent record at the World Cup.

Pineda's goal came when he chipped a ball from Ariel Ortega before striking home a sweet left-foot volley in the 36th minute. Argentina finished top of Group H and earned a second round match with England, the runners-up in Group G.

The South Americans are only the second team, after hosts France, to win all three group games and the only side to go through without conceding a single goal. Croatia, who won both their previous games, go on to play in Bordeaux against Romania.

Jamaica 2, Japan 1

The Reggae Boyz finally sparked the long-awaited party on Friday by clinching their first World Cup victory.

They said they planned bigger celebrations in 2002.

"We can really look back on the World Cup and say we gave it our best shot. A lot of people have come to the World Cup more than once and have never won a game," goalkeeper Warren Barrett said after Jamaica's 2-1 win over Japan.

"We need to build on this, we have the talent," he said after an attractive match which left Jamaican and Japanese fans dancing together in the stands.

Both teams staged laps of honor after the end of their first World Cup experience. The Caribbean festival - some fans had called the World Cup "The Big Dance" - had been overdue after two heavy defeats by Croatia and Argentina in which the team conceded eight goals.

Midfielder Theodore "Tapper" Whitmore, who scored both goals on Friday, agreed Jamaica did not initially live up to expectations. But he said the teams at the World Cup played a higher level of football to which the team had to adjust.

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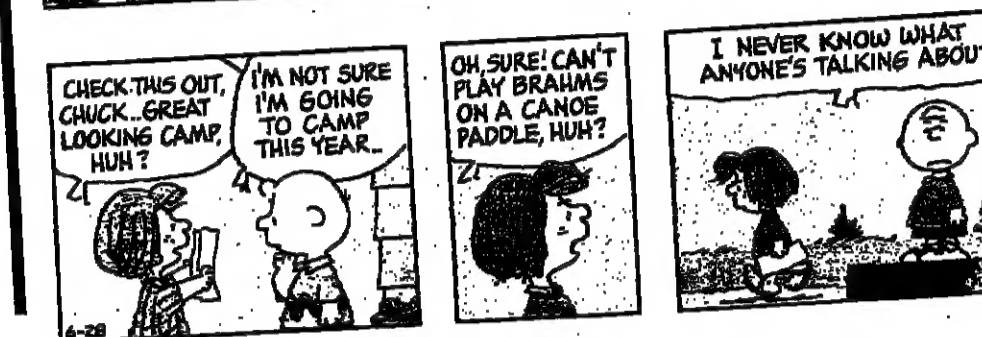
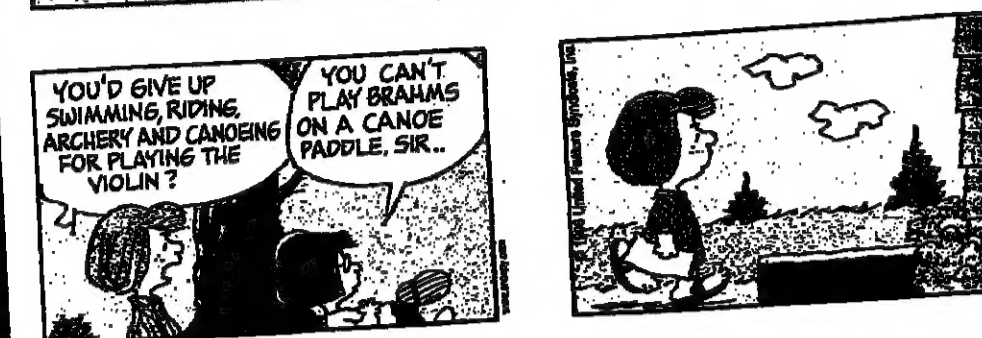
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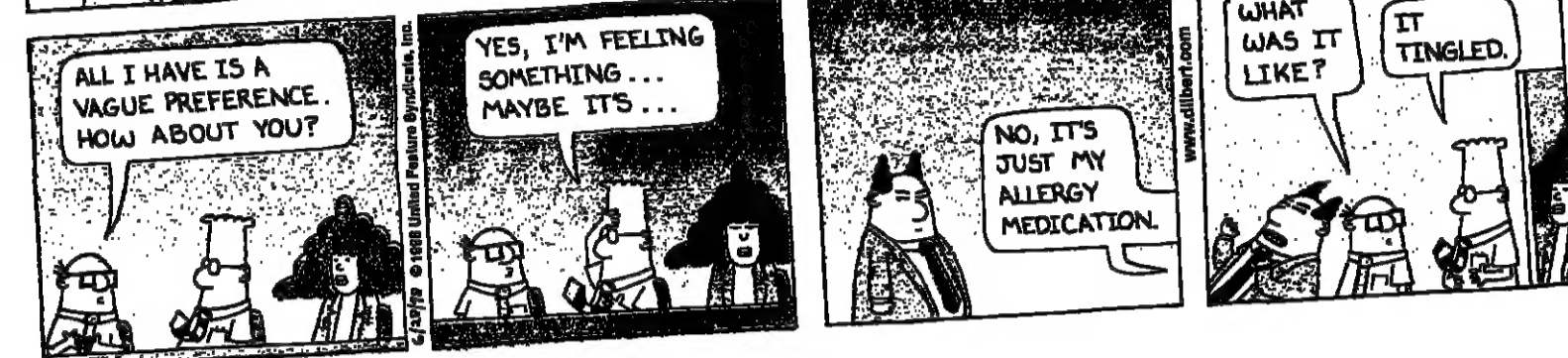
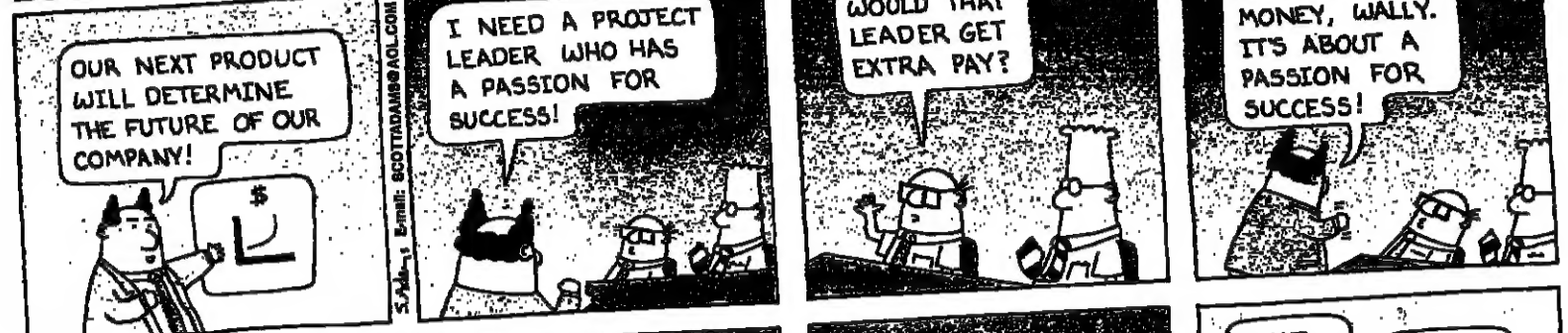
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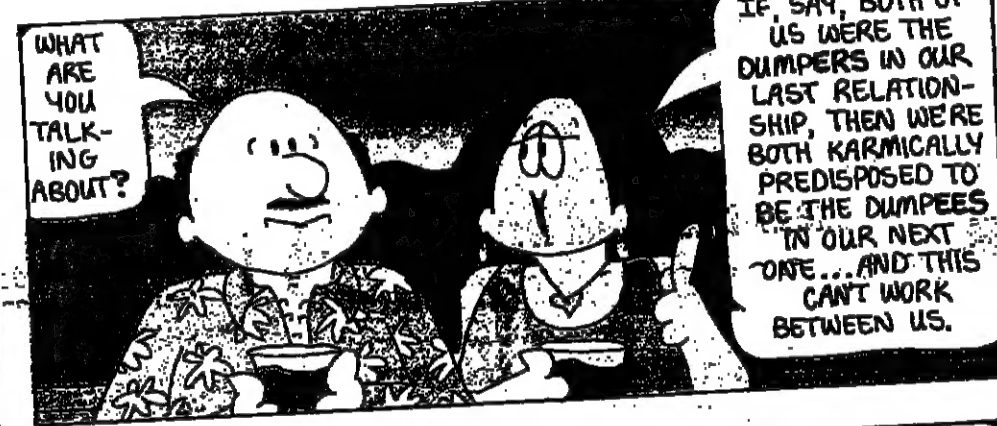
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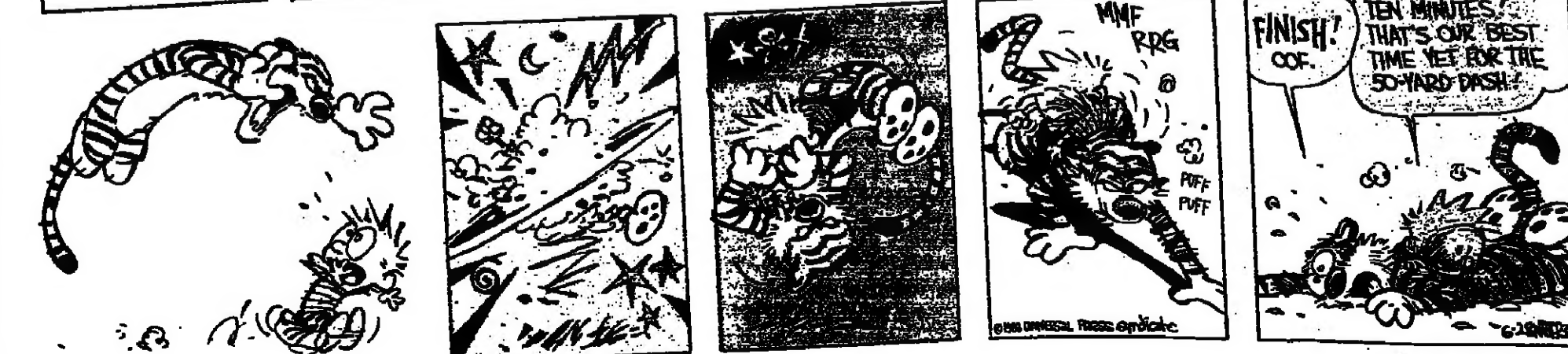
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